

127: A NEW BEGINNING



SKYBOUND

THE WALKING DEAD

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN



CLIP 4K

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

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The war is over. Now we rebuild.

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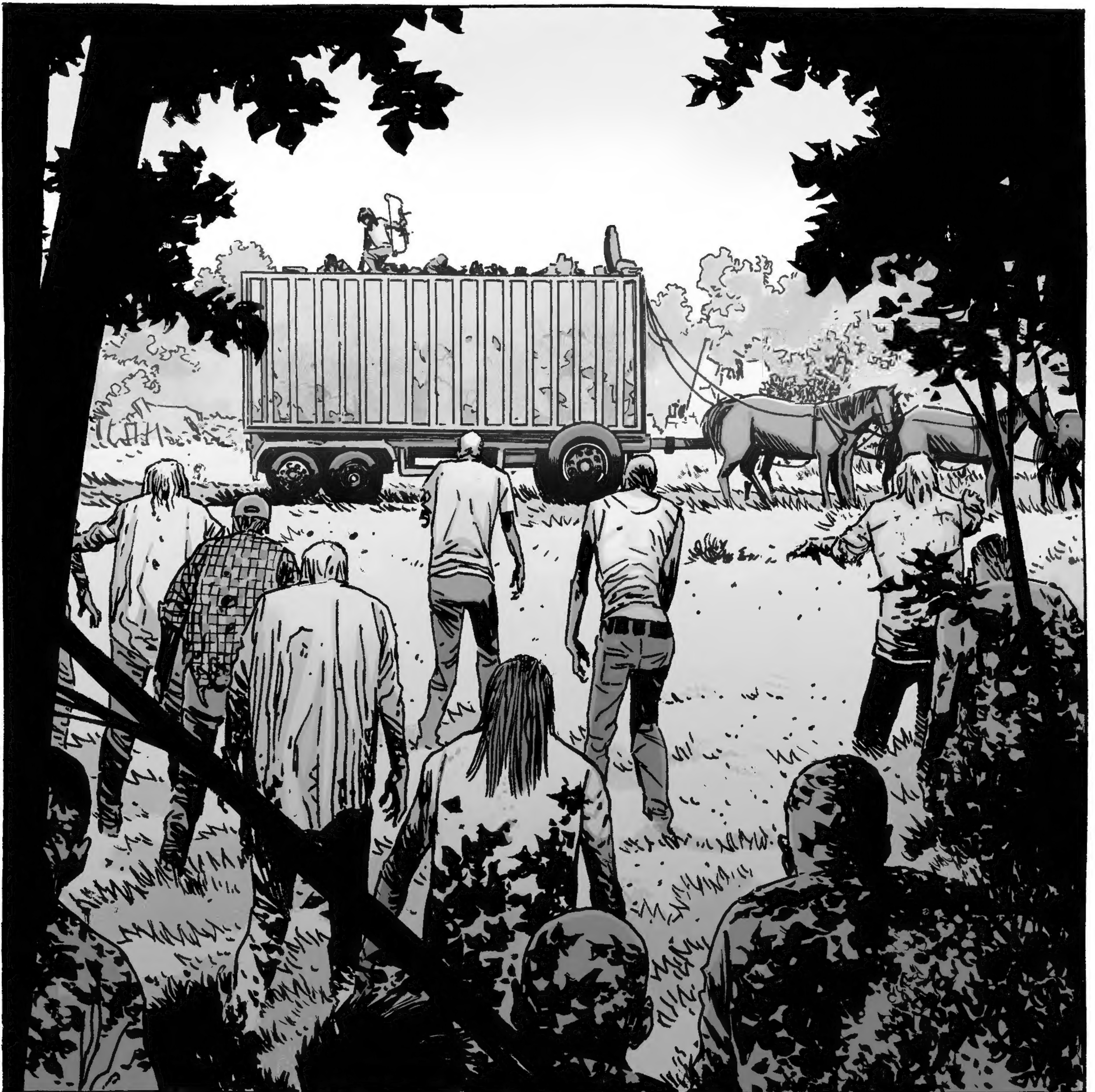
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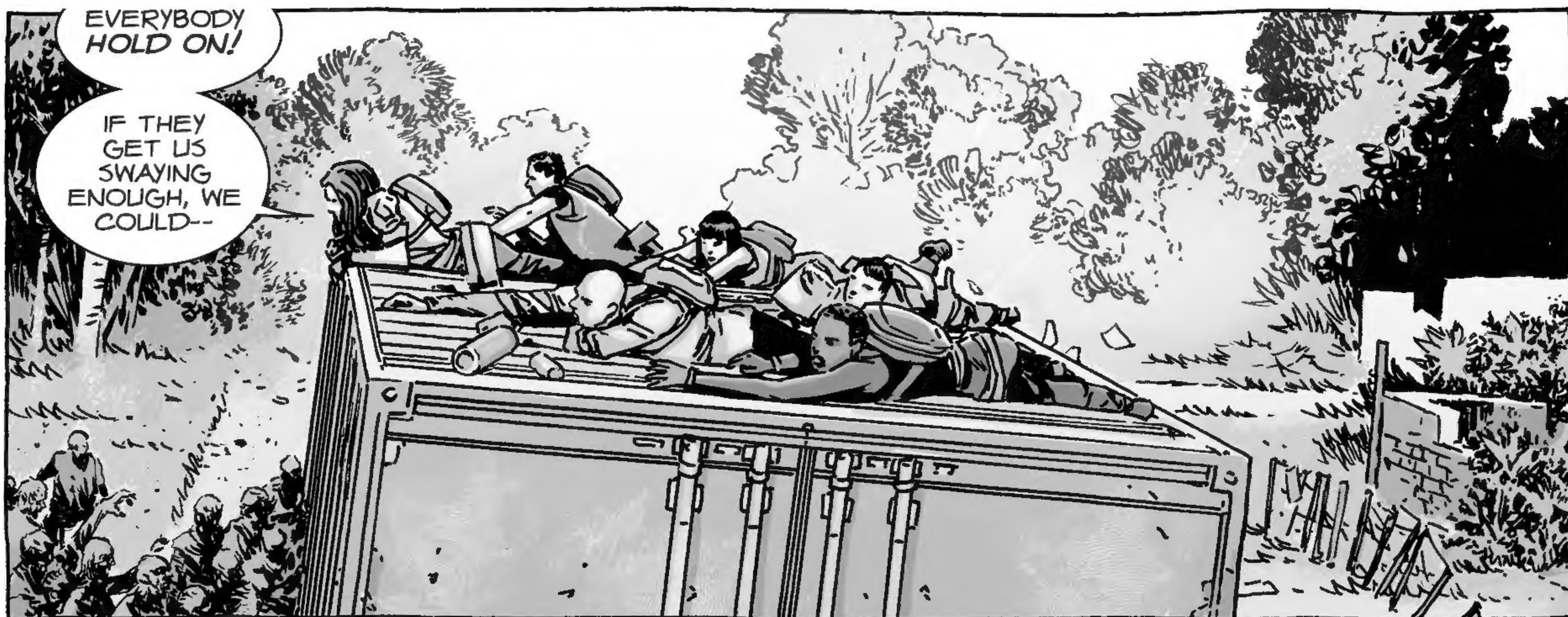
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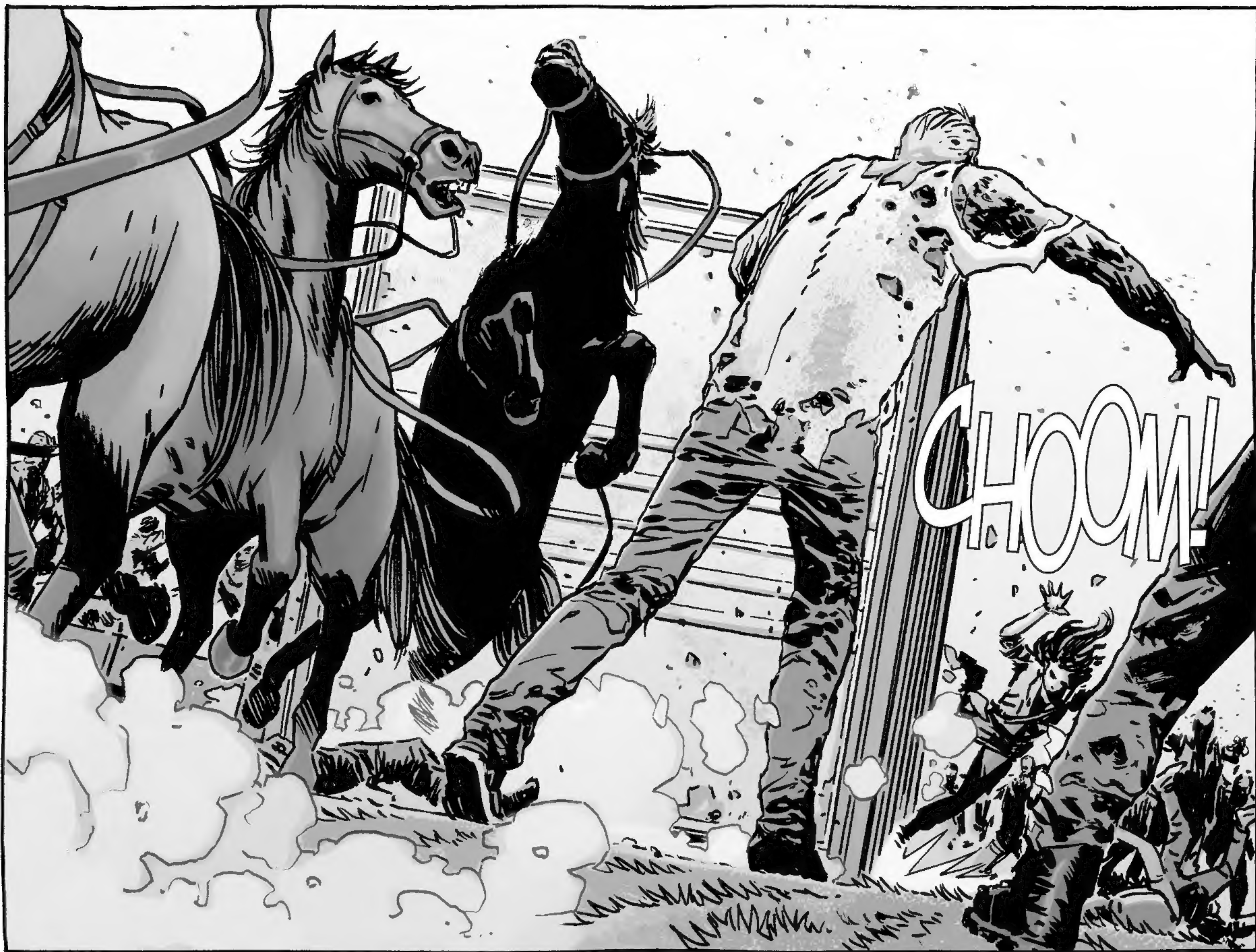








OH,
SHIT!

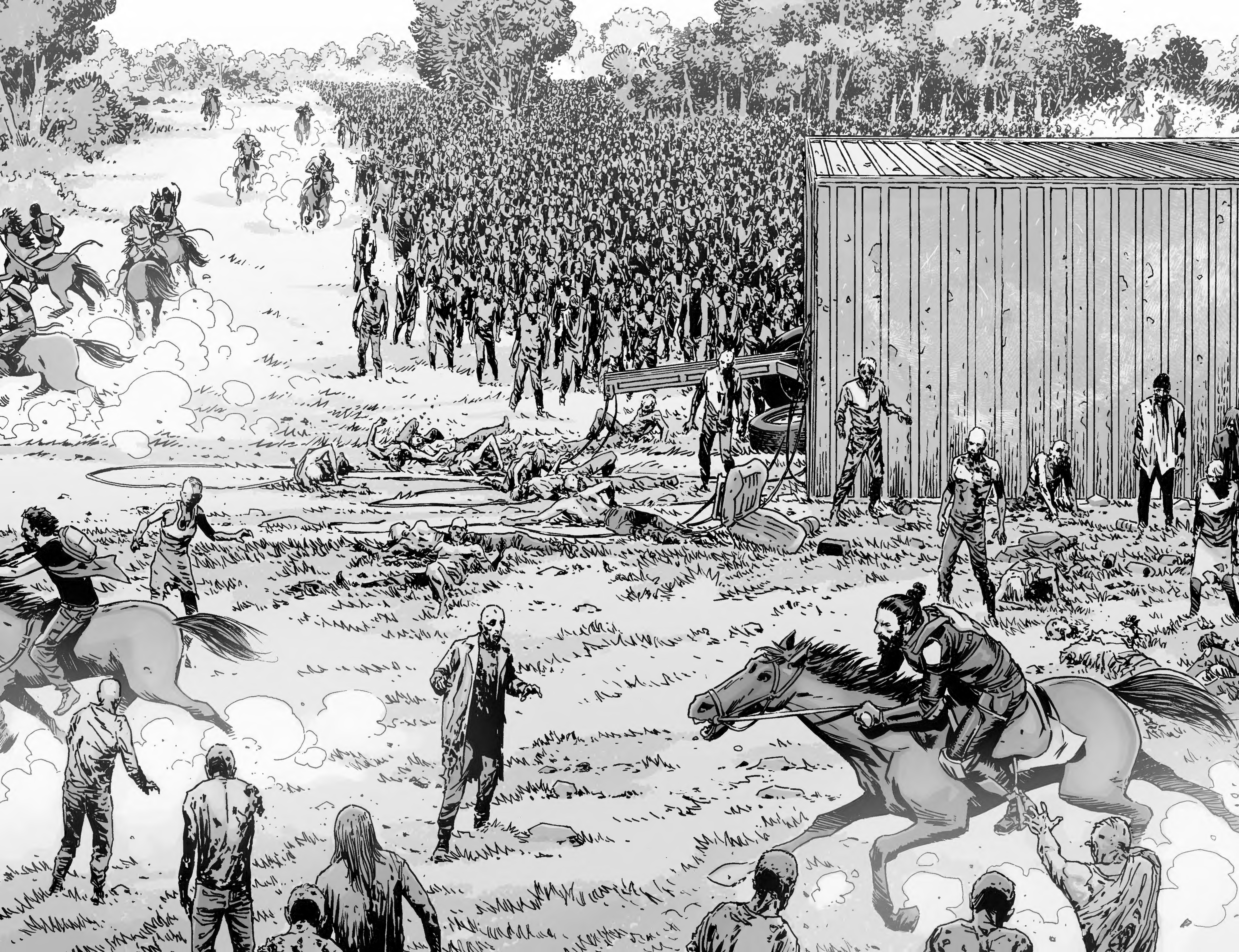




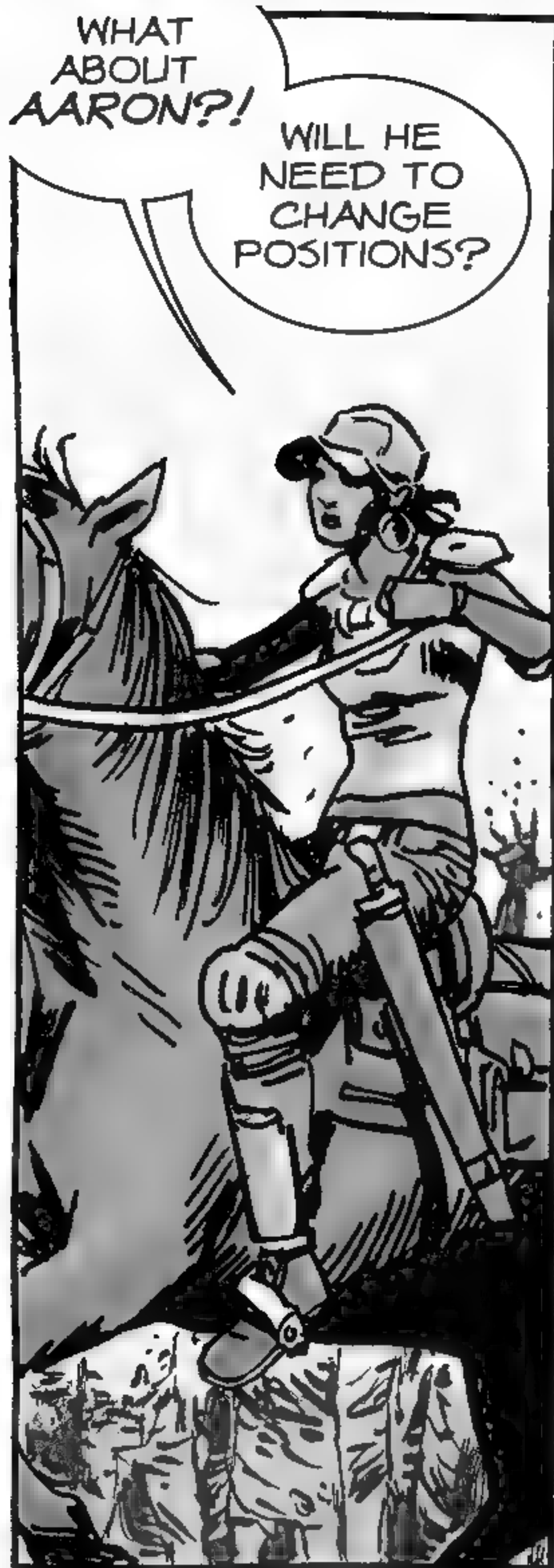
ON
YOUR
FEET,
LADY!

MOVE!

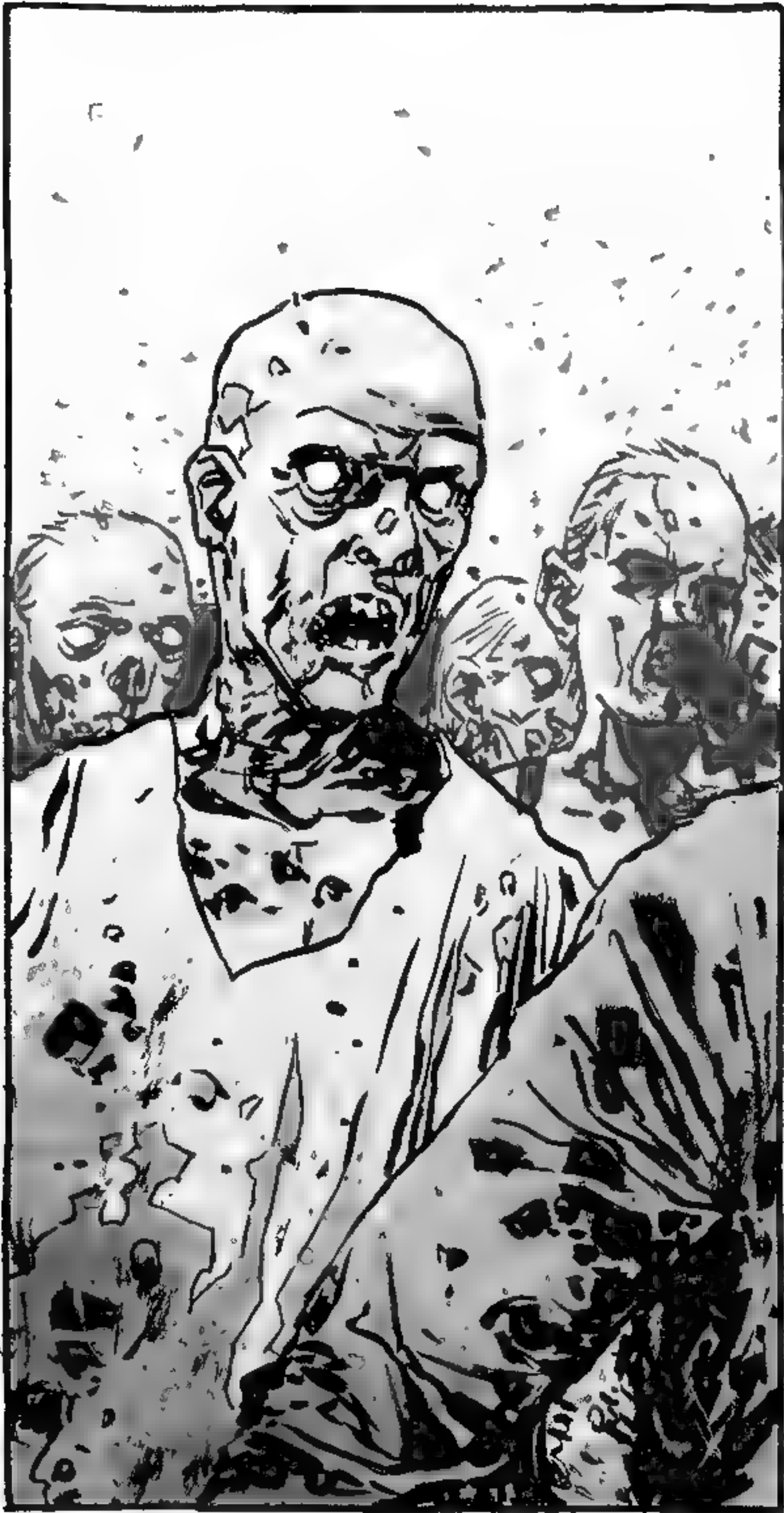


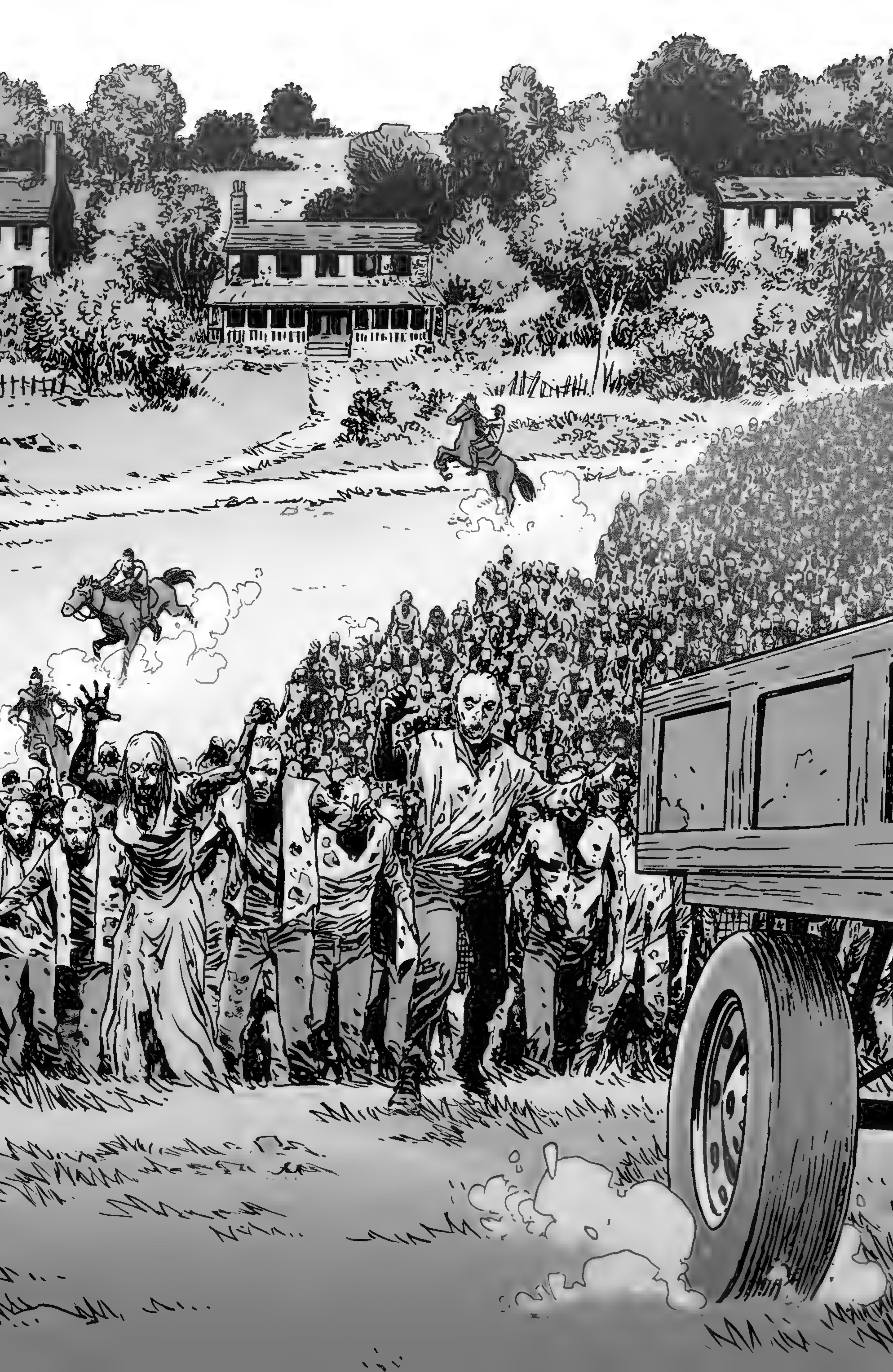








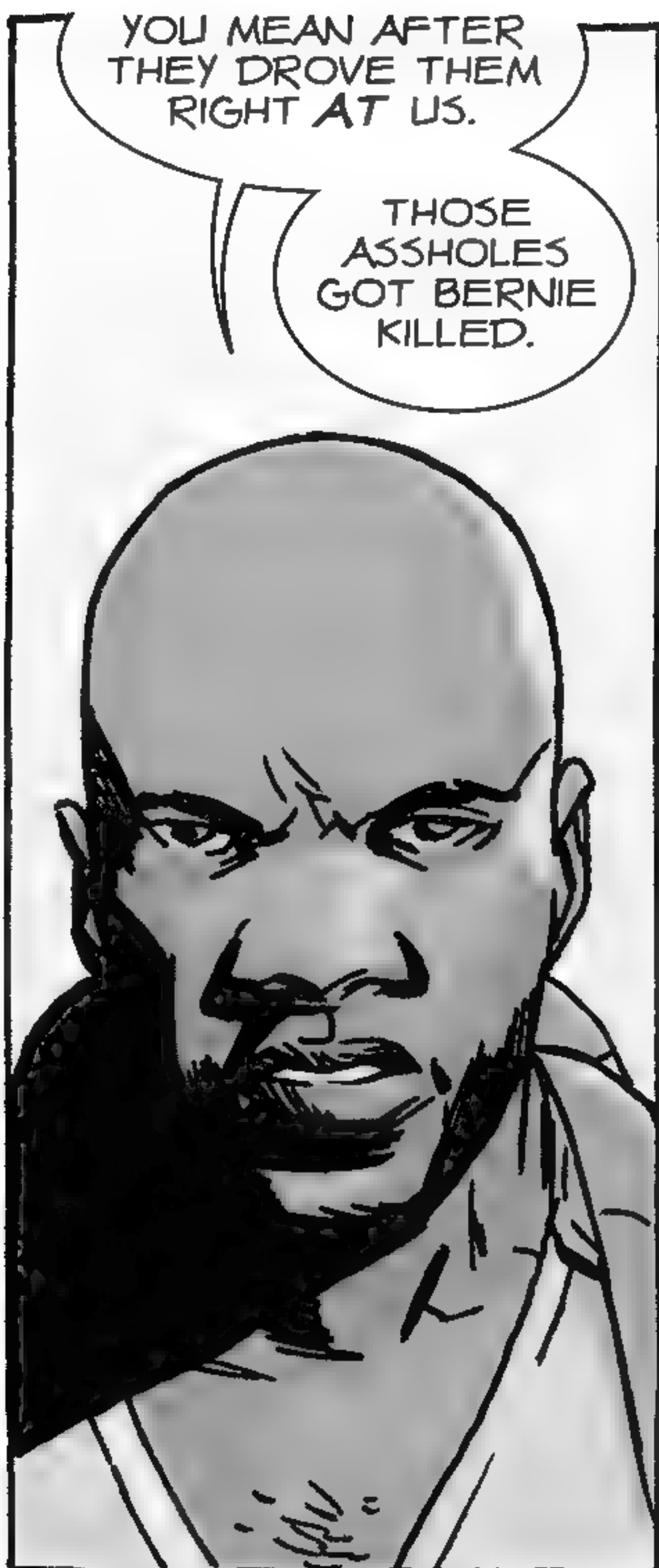






THEY'RE LEAVING.

THEY'RE NOT COMING AFTER US. THAT GROUP ACTUALLY LED THEM AWAY.



YOU MEAN AFTER THEY DROVE THEM RIGHT AT US.

THOSE ASSHOLES GOT BERNIE KILLED.



BERNIE DIED THE DAY THE DEAD STARTED TO WALK, SAME AS THE REST OF US, KELLY.

WE'RE ALL LIVING ON BORROWED TIME. YOU KNOW THAT.



DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO BE HAPPY ABOUT IT.

BERNIE WAS A GOOD DUDE.



WHAT YOU *SHOULD* BE HAPPY ABOUT IS THAT THOSE PEOPLE DEVISED A SYNCHRONIZED CATTLE DRIVE TO STEER LARGE GROUPS OF STINKERS.

THAT MEANS THEY HAVE A PLACE WORTH PROTECTING.

IT COULD BE WHAT WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.



CAN
BARELY SEE
THEM NOW.

SHOULD WE
RIDE OUT--
FOLLOW
THEM?

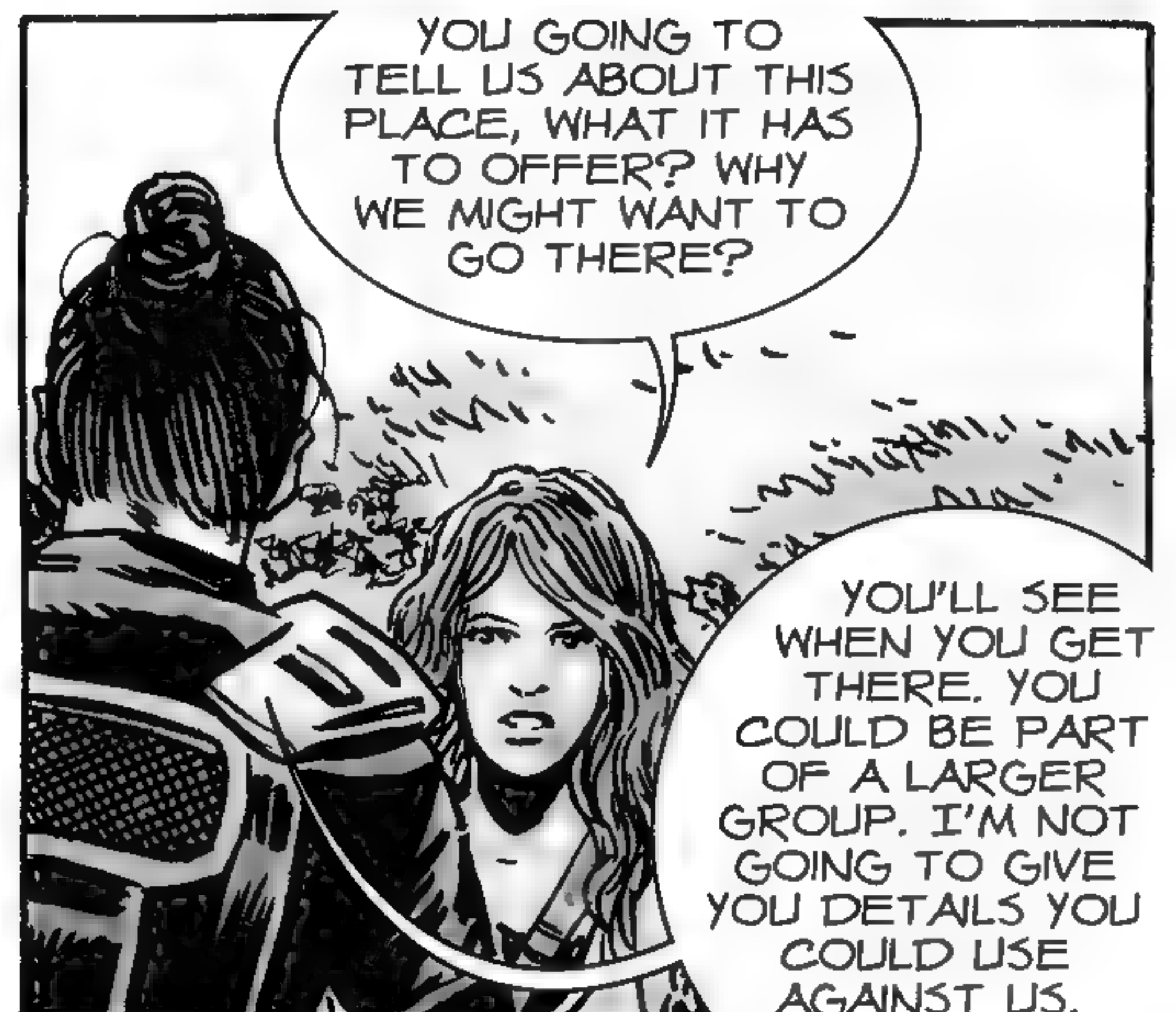


NO
NEED.

LET ME TELL YOU HOW THIS GOES.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME BACK
WITH US TO OUR PLACE, BUT IN
ORDER TO DO THAT, YOU HAVE
TO HAND OVER ALL
YOUR WEAPONS.

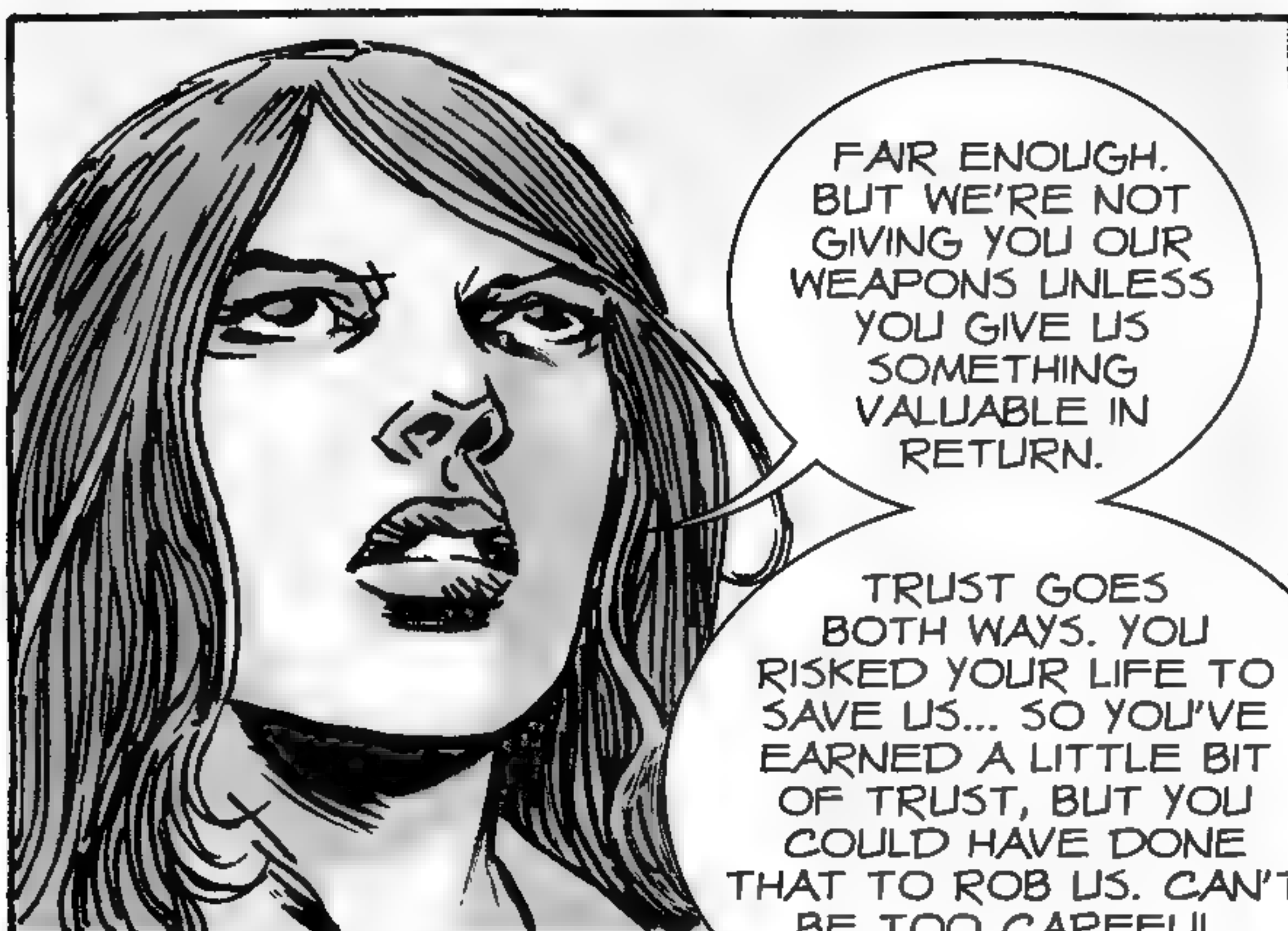


IT'S FOR
OUR SAFETY.
YOU'RE MORE
THAN WELCOME
TO DECLINE,
THEN WE GO OUR
SEPARATE
WAYS.



YOU GOING TO
TELL US ABOUT THIS
PLACE, WHAT IT HAS
TO OFFER? WHY
WE MIGHT WANT TO
GO THERE?

YOU'LL SEE
WHEN YOU GET
THERE. YOU
COULD BE PART
OF A LARGER
GROUP. I'M NOT
GOING TO GIVE
YOU DETAILS YOU
COULD USE
AGAINST US.



FAIR ENOUGH.
BUT WE'RE NOT
GIVING YOU OUR
WEAPONS UNLESS
YOU GIVE US
SOMETHING
VALUABLE IN
RETURN.

TRUST GOES
BOTH WAYS. YOU
RISKED YOUR LIFE TO
SAVE US... SO YOU'VE
EARNED A LITTLE BIT
OF TRUST, BUT YOU
COULD HAVE DONE
THAT TO ROB US. CAN'T
BE TOO CAREFUL.



I THINK
WE CAN
WORK
SOMETHING
OUT.

WE HAVE
PLENTY OF
FOOD.



WHAT'S THE WORD, EUGENE?

IT'S LOOKING GOOD.



UNLESS THERE'S SOME KIND OF EXTREME SHIFT OVERNIGHT, THE HERD WILL MISS THE KINGDOM BY AT LEAST TEN MILES, AND THEN WE'RE IN THE CLEAR.

WE CAMP HERE FOR THE NIGHT. TOMORROW WE RIDE UP AND MAKE SURE THEY HAVEN'T CHANGED COURSE... THEN WE CAN GO HOME.



FANTASTIC.

GOOD WORK OUT THERE TODAY.



THANKS. ▽

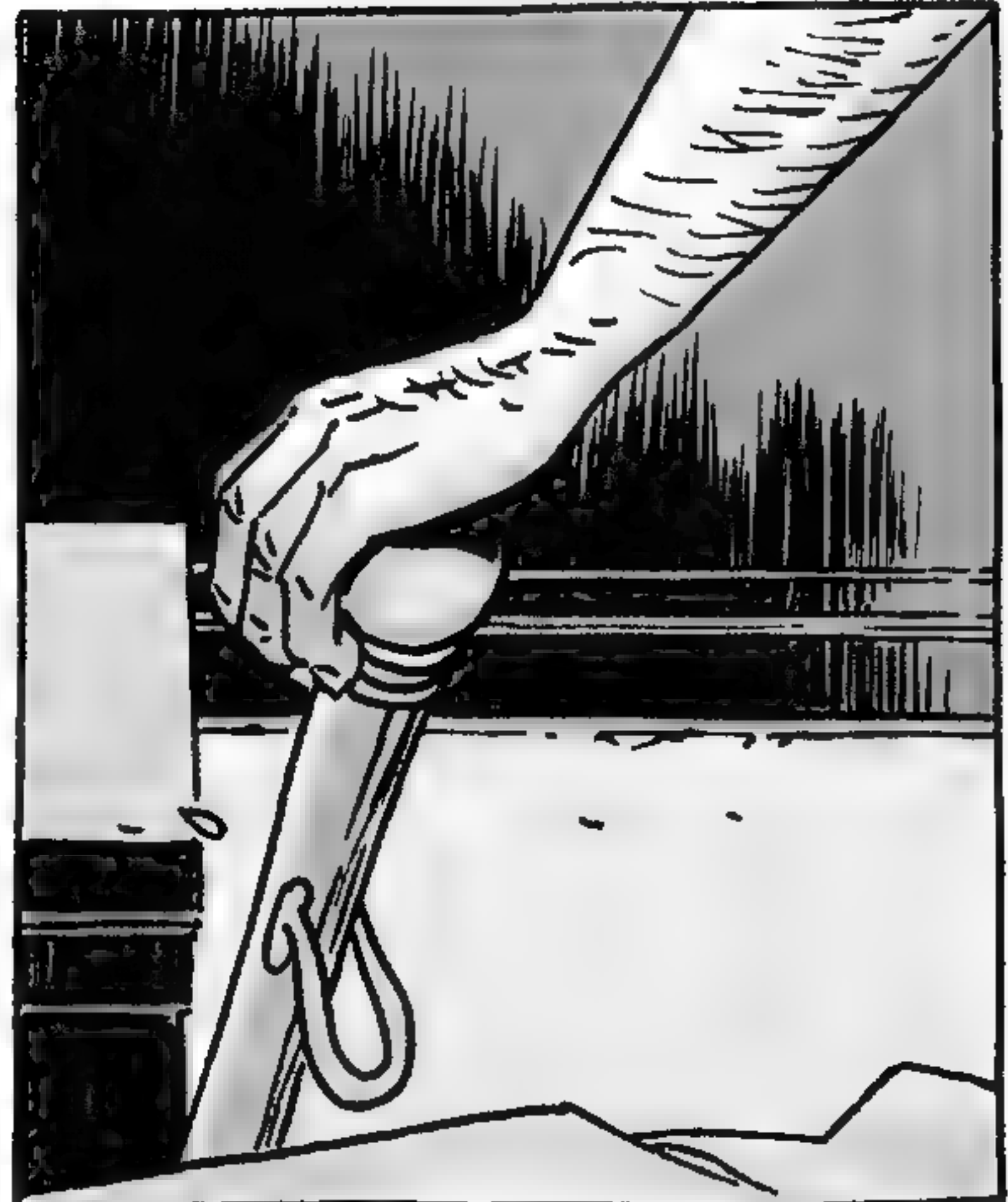
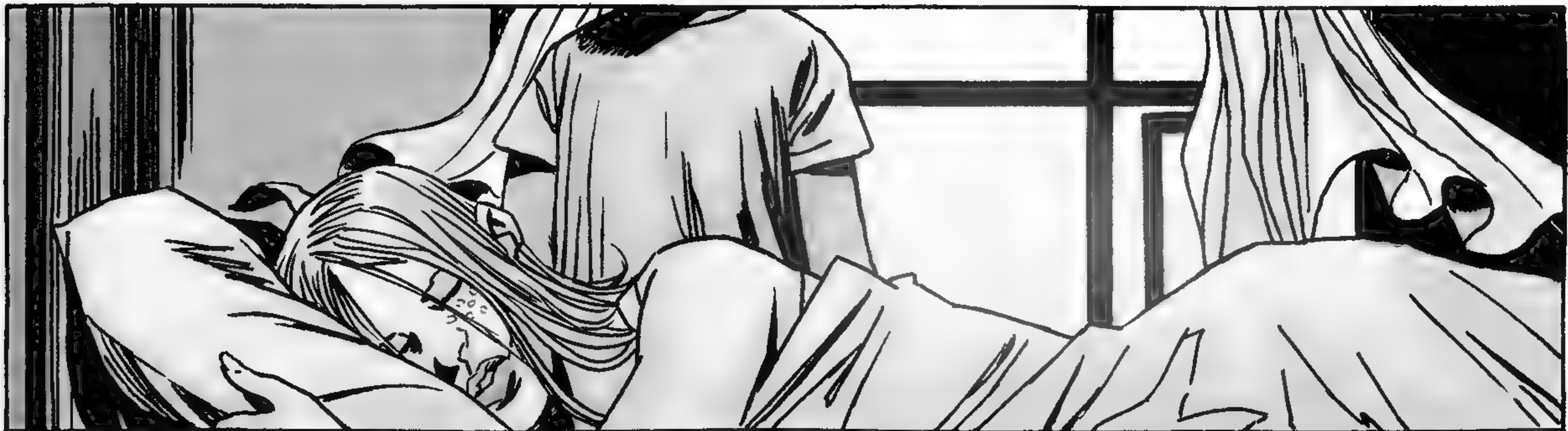
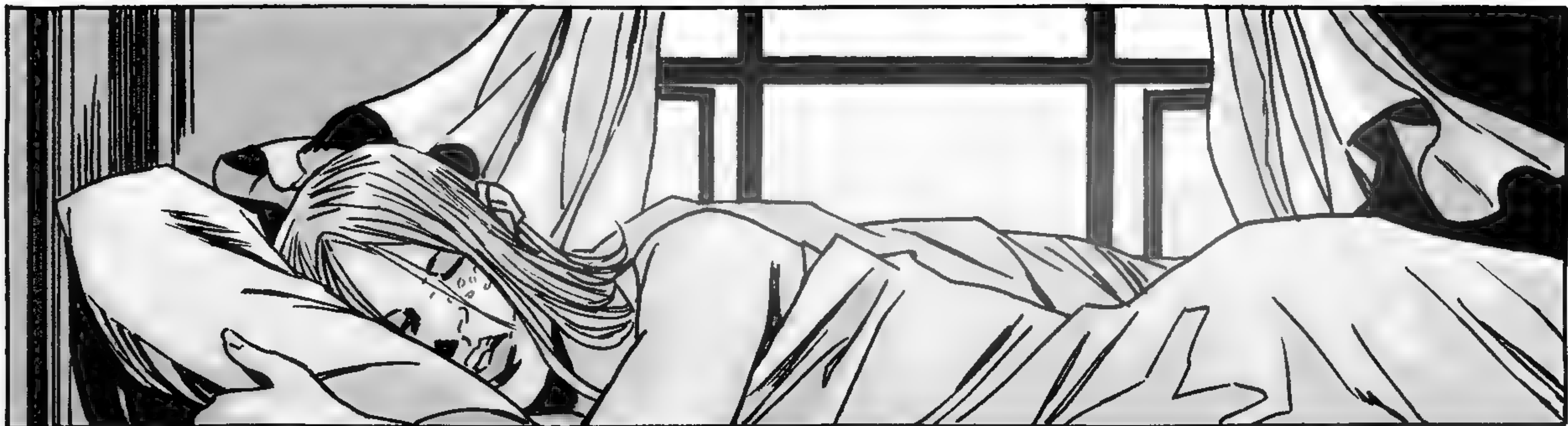
YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO TALKING RICK INTO TAKING THIS GROUP IN?

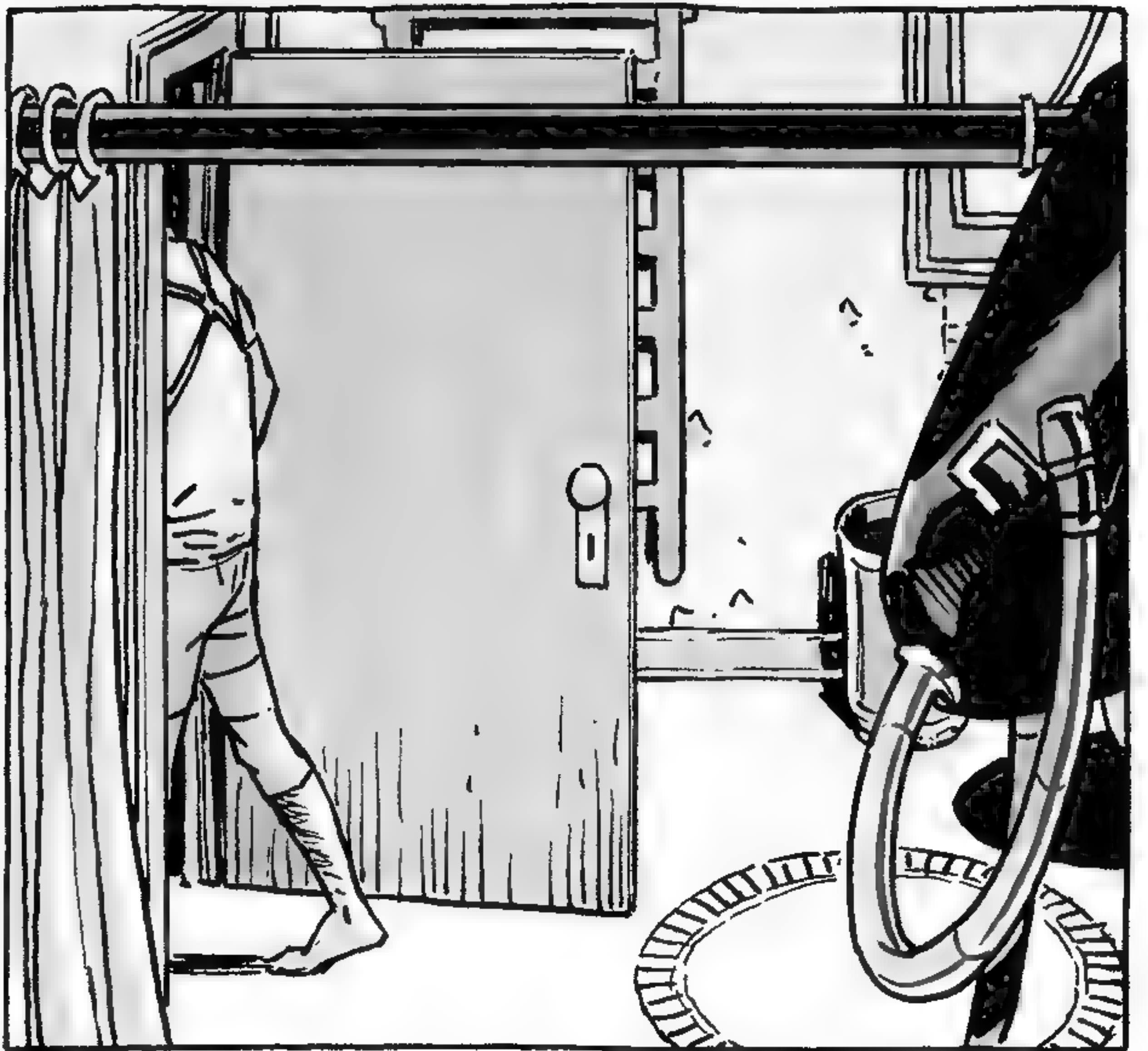
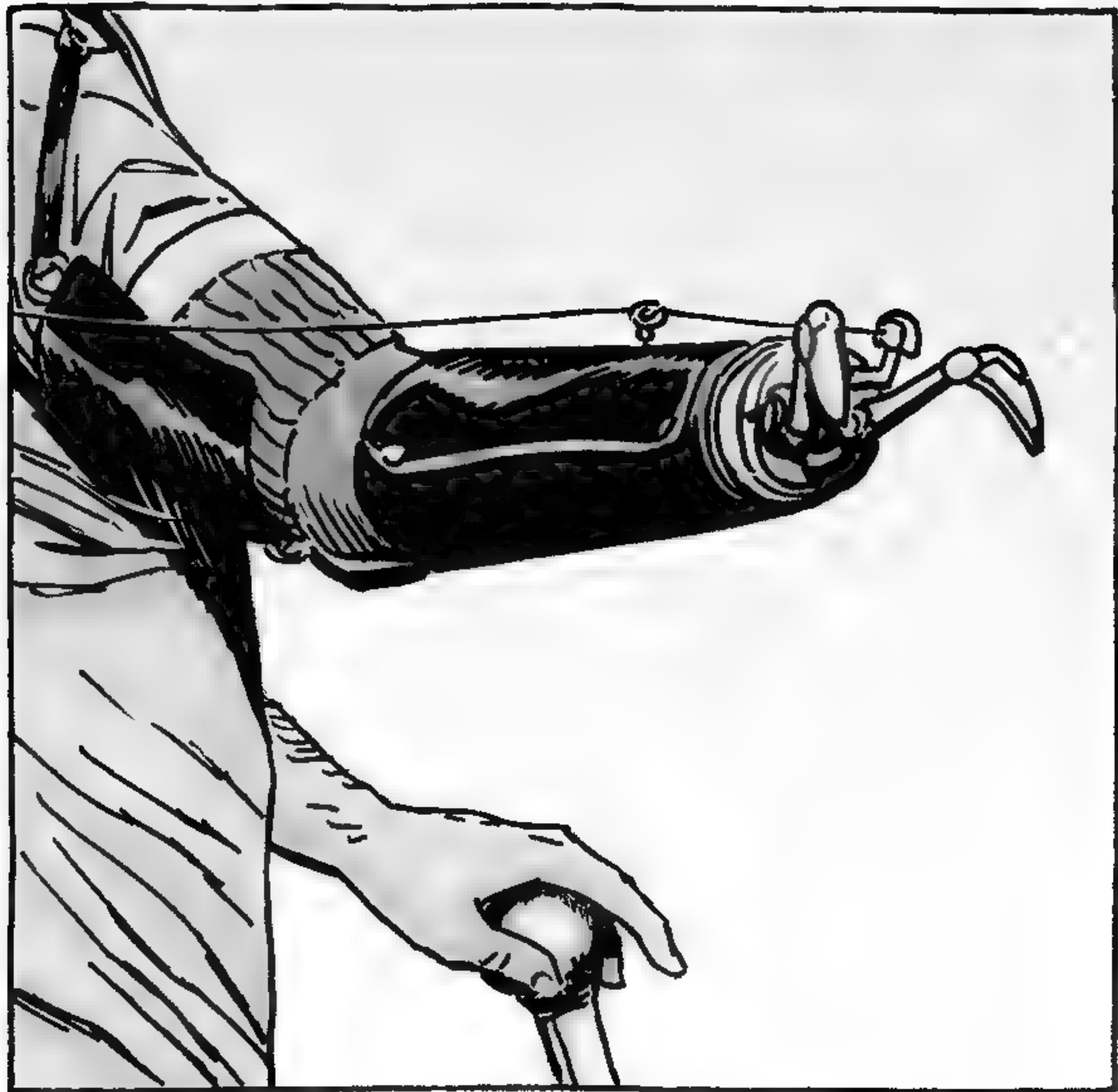
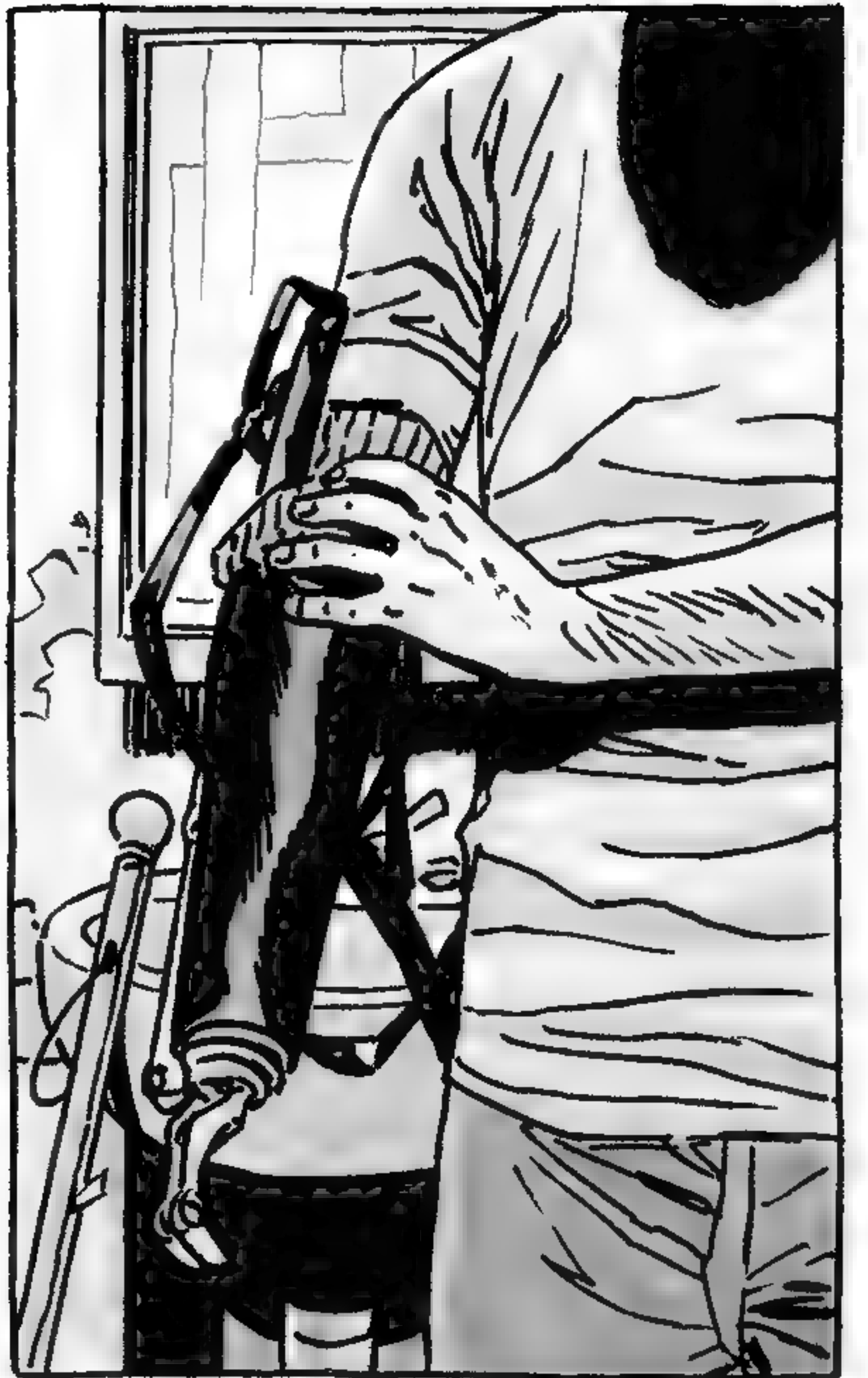
HE HASN'T TURNED ANYONE AWAY YET... ALTHOUGH IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE FOUND ANYONE NEW, AND HE'S BEEN ON A TEAR LATELY.

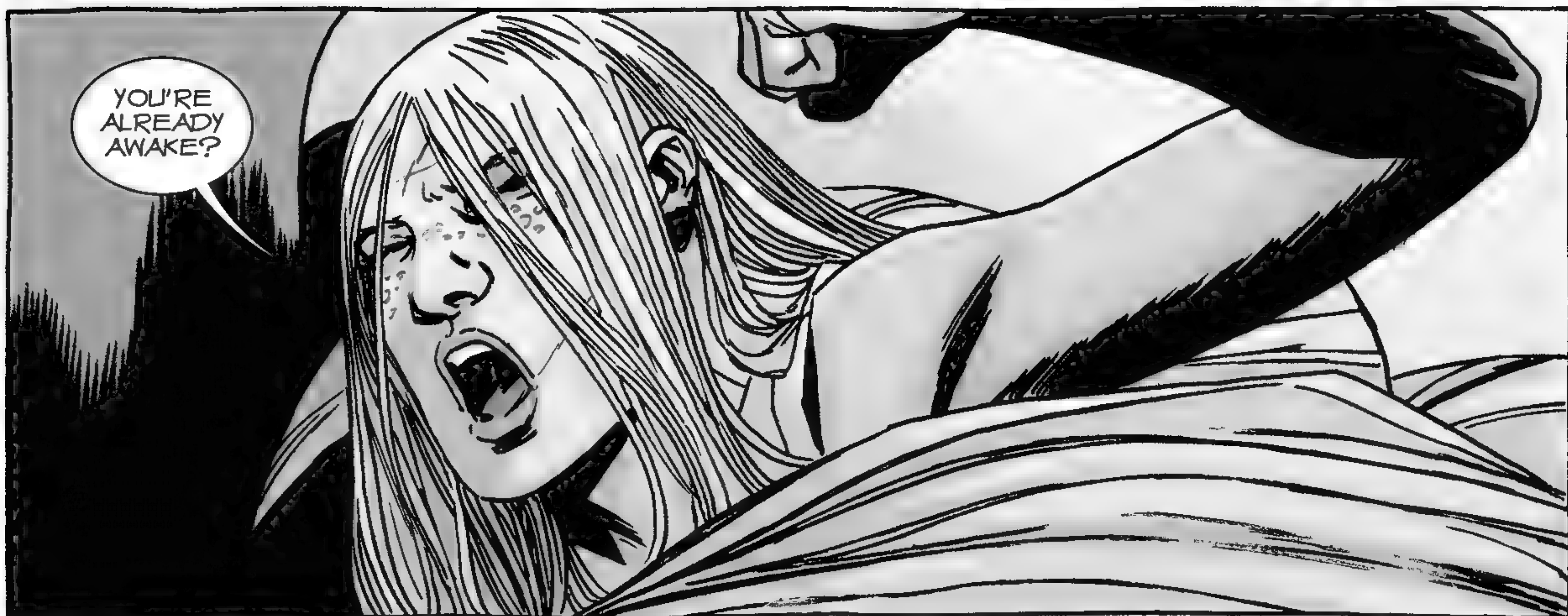
WE'LL SEE.

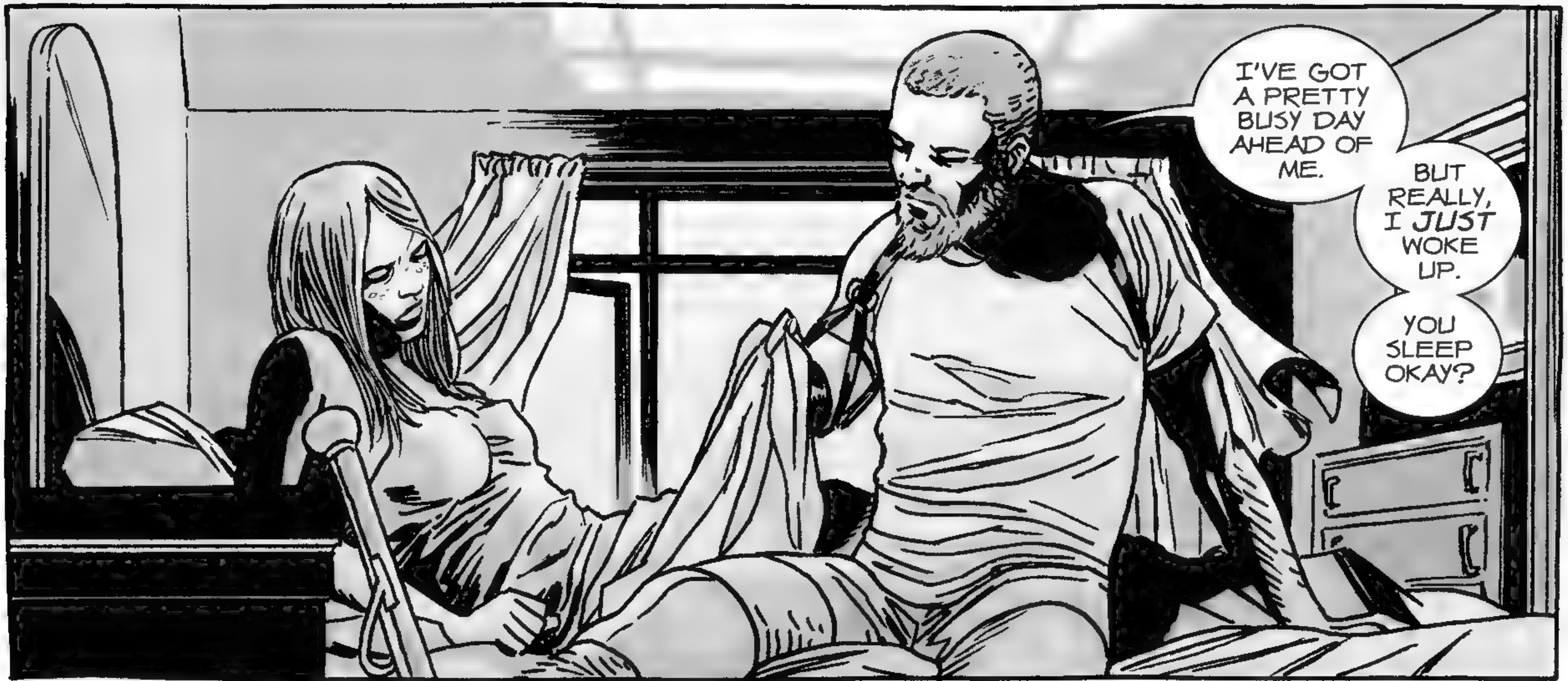
COME HELP US SET UP CAMP FOR THE NIGHT.











I'VE GOT A PRETTY BUSY DAY AHEAD OF ME.

BUT REALLY, I *JUST* WOKE UP.

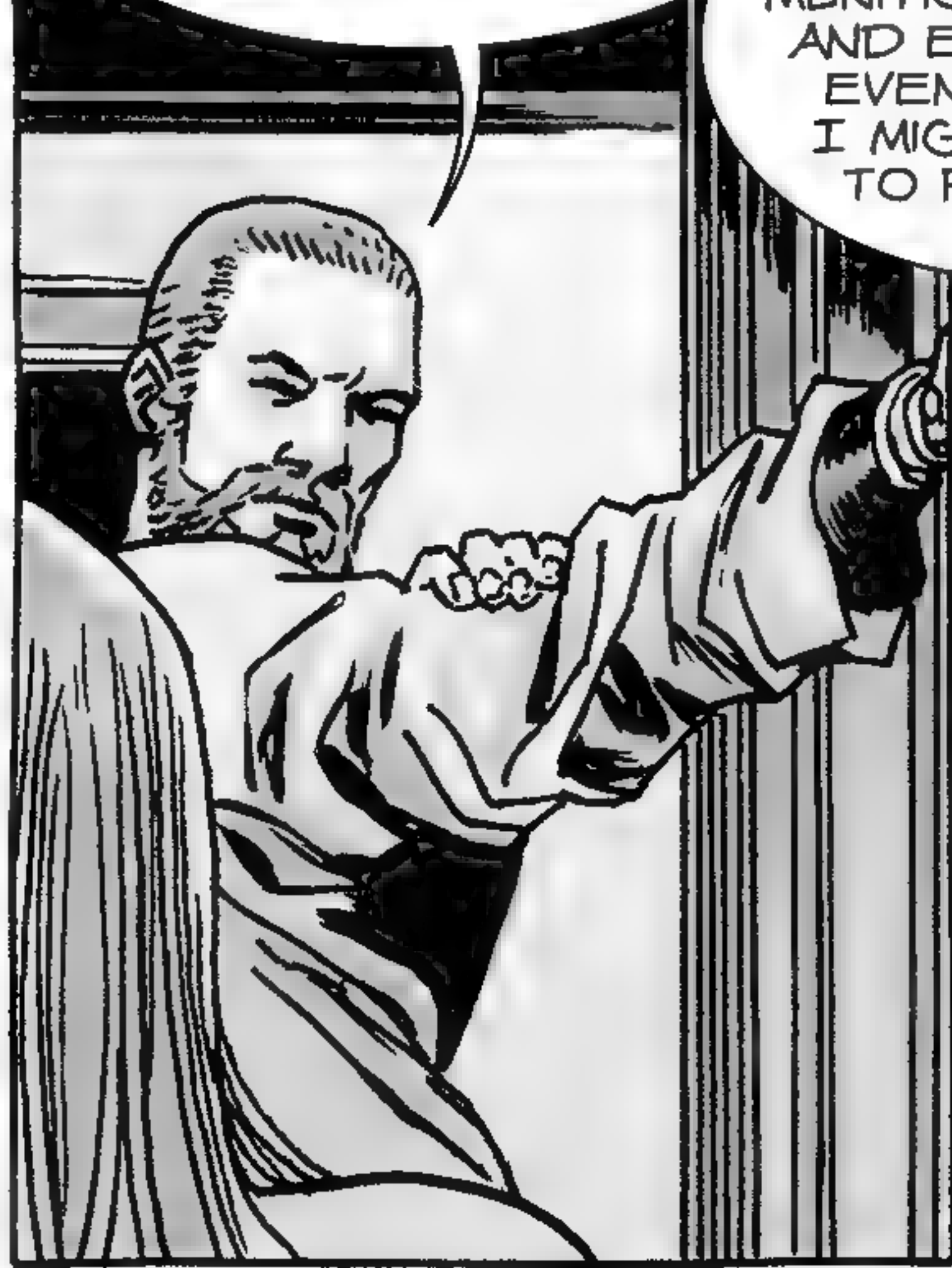
YOU SLEEP OKAY?



YEAH... LIKE A ROCK, REALLY. IT WAS NICE.

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TODAY?

THE AGRICULTURE REPORT IS TODAY. WHICH WILL BE GOOD TO KNOW WHERE WE STAND... BUT THAT'S GOING TO EAT UP A FEW HOURS.



I'M SUPPOSED TO VISIT OUR MUNITIONS FACTORY, AND EUGENE ISN'T EVEN BACK YET. I MIGHT BE ABLE TO POSTPONE.

AND CARL STILL WANTS TO HAVE A "TALK." I DON'T THINK I CAN PUT THAT OFF ANOTHER DAY.



WHAT ABOUT?

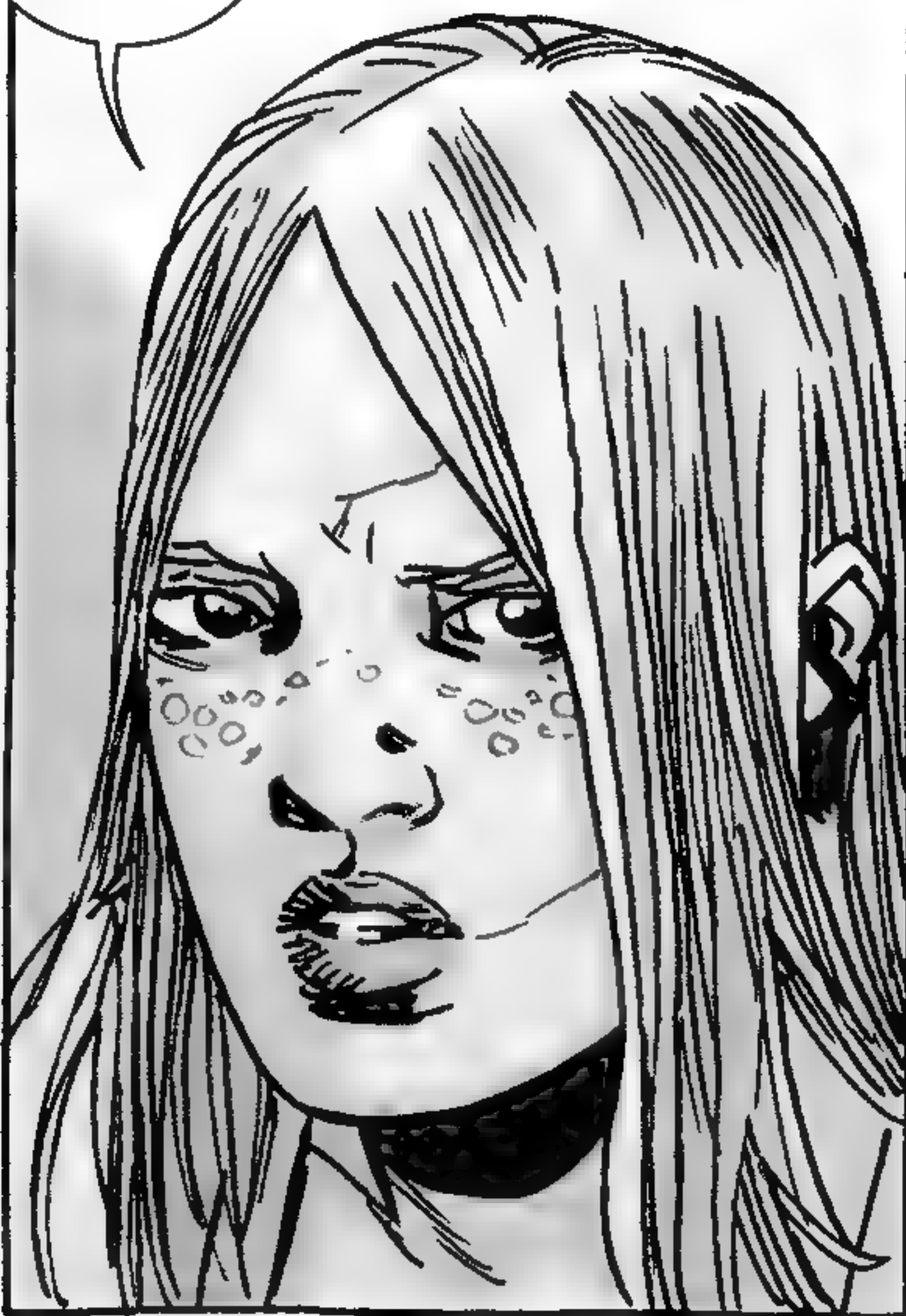
WHAT DO YOU THINK?



...

OH.

ARE YOU GOING TO LET HIM?



I DON'T KNOW.



WE'RE
OUT OF
BREAD.

IT'S BEEN A
FEW DAYS...
YOU'VE GOTTEN
USED TO IT
THAT QUICK?



I WAS
HEADING OVER
TO THE
STOREHOUSE
TO GET
MORE.

UNLESS
YOU HAVE
TIME TO
TALK?



I CAN'T
RIGHT NOW,
CARL.

I'M SORRY,
THEY'RE
PROBABLY
ALREADY
WAITING FOR
ME.



OKAY. I
UNDERSTAND.
BUT LATER,
RIGHT?



YES, OF
COURSE.

DID YOU
CLEAR UP THAT
THING WITH THE
COOPERS' SON...
IS IT ALEX?



YEAH. I TOLD
YOU NOT TO
WORRY ABOUT
THAT.

I TOOK CARE
OF IT. IT WAS ALL A
MISUNDERSTANDING.
WE'RE COOL, NOW.



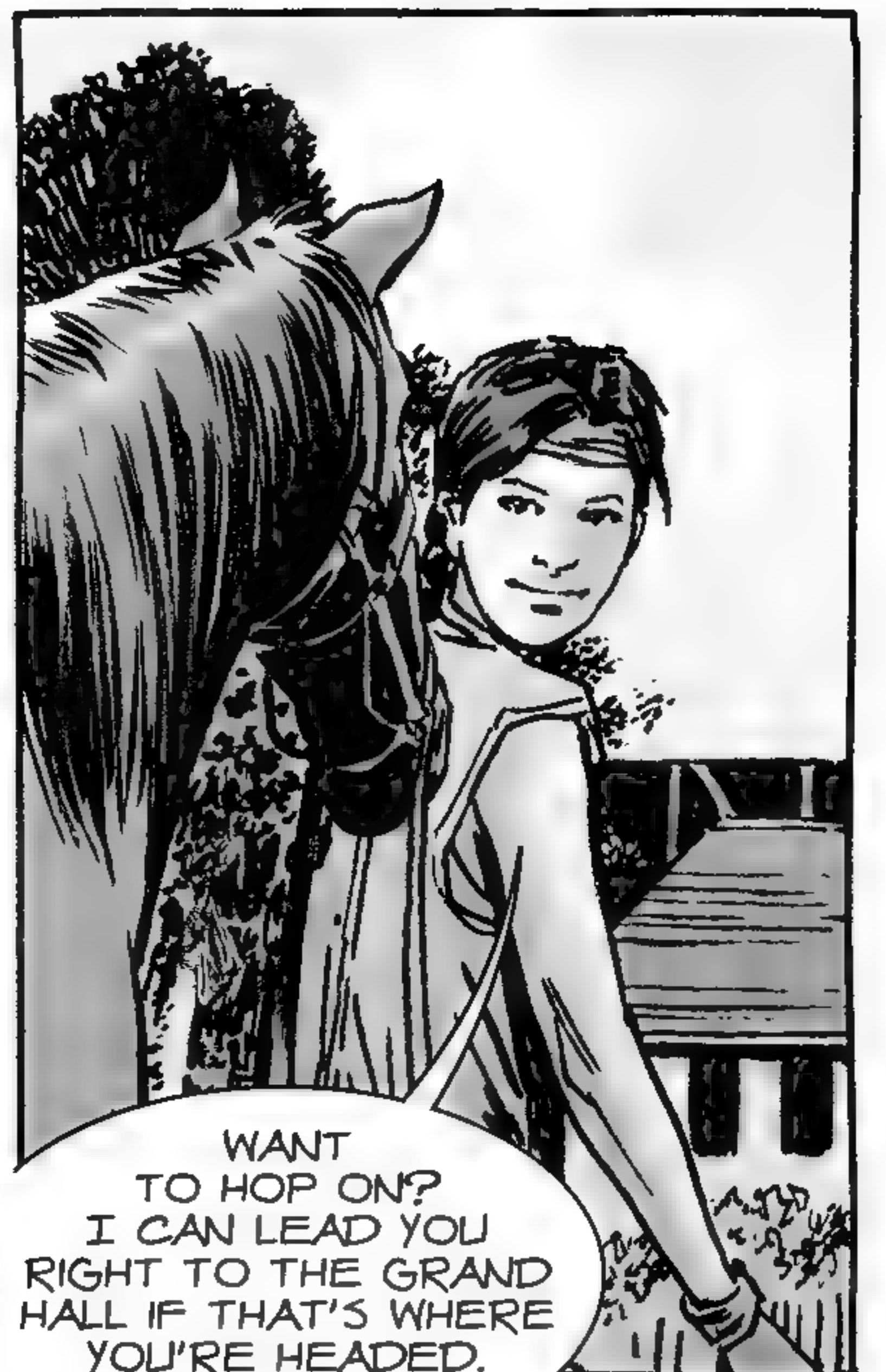




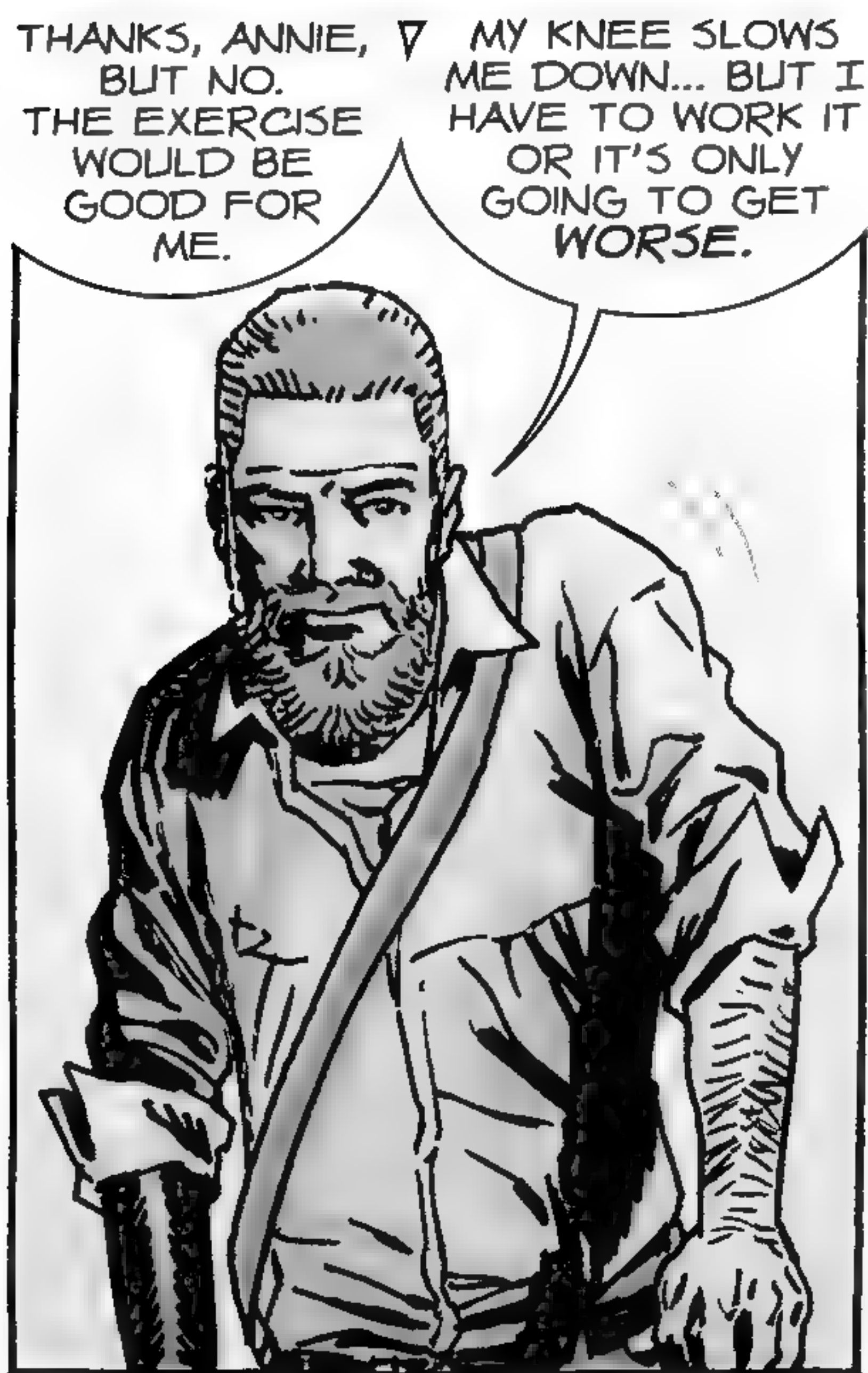
MORNING, RICK.



MORNING, OLIVIA.

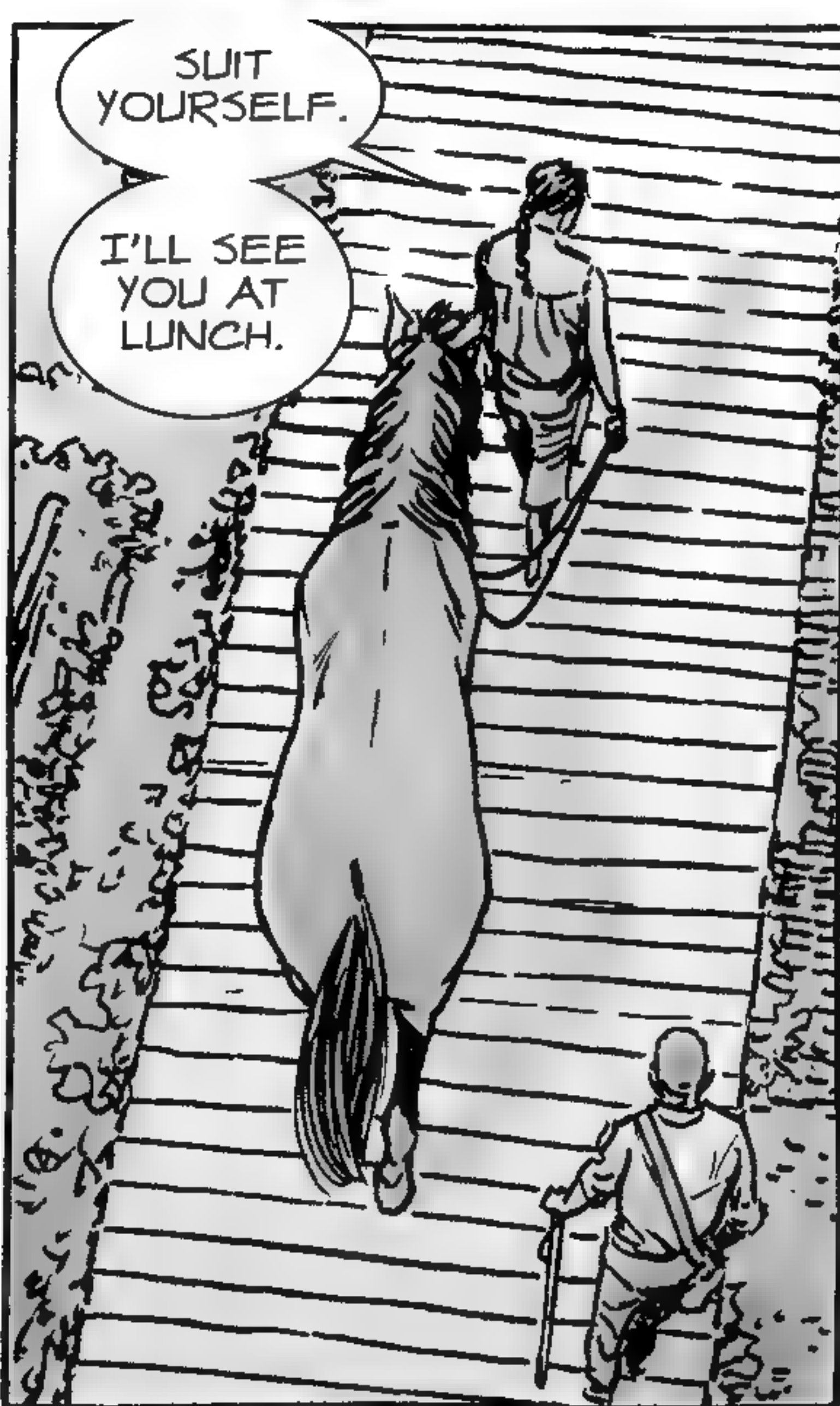


WANT TO HOP ON? I CAN LEAD YOU RIGHT TO THE GRAND HALL IF THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE HEADED.



THANKS, ANNIE, BUT NO. THE EXERCISE WOULD BE GOOD FOR ME.

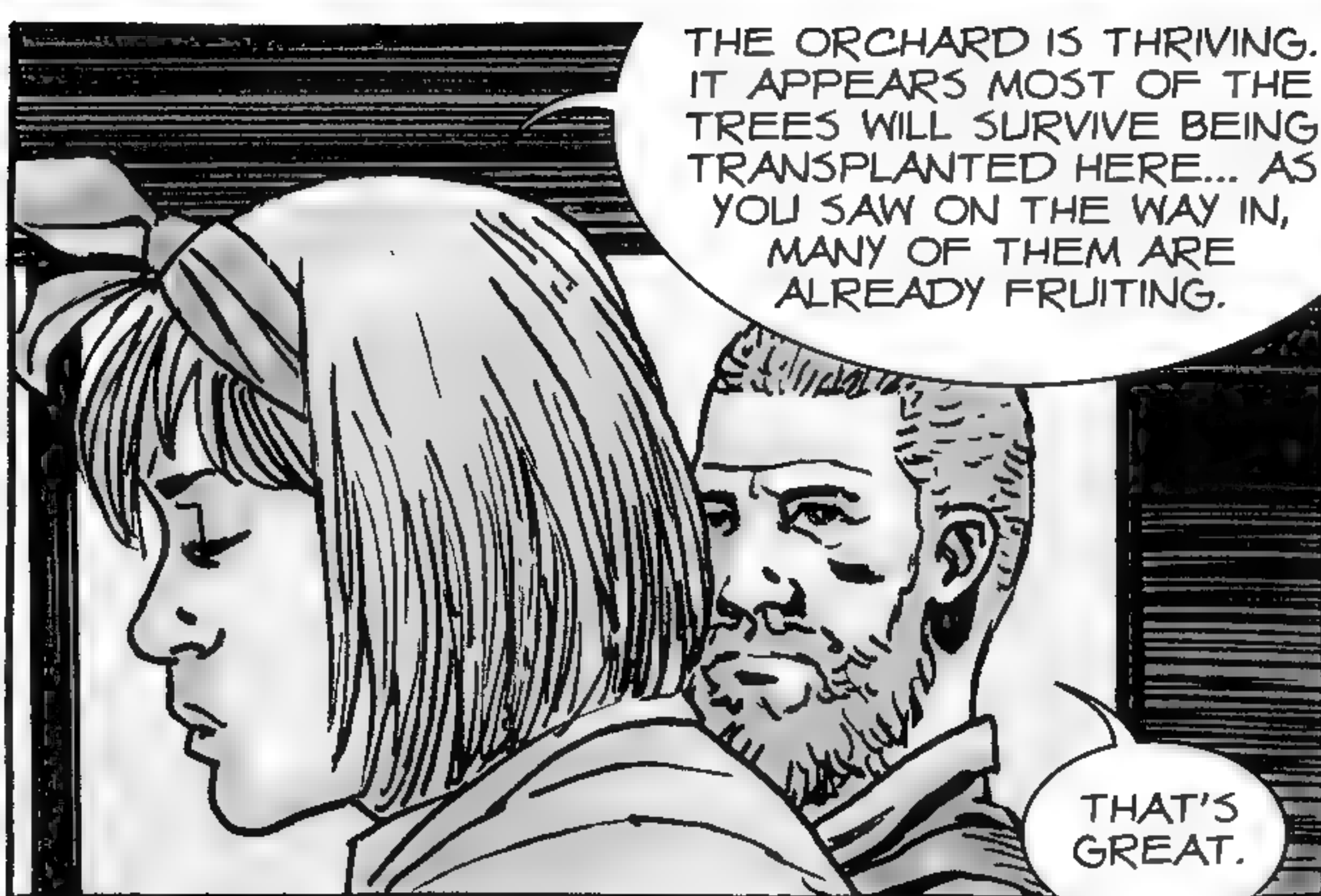
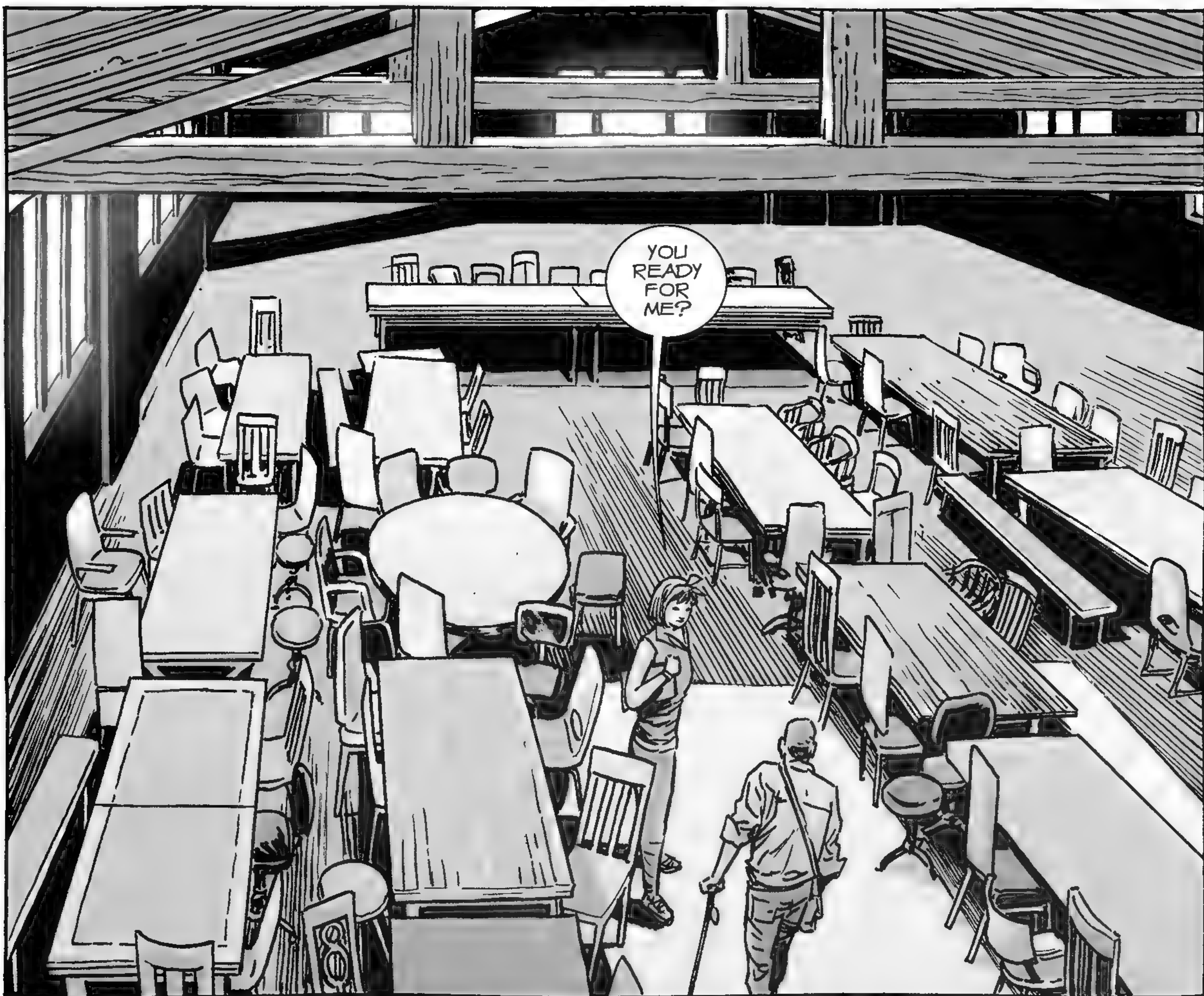
MY KNEE SLOWS ME DOWN... BUT I HAVE TO WORK IT OR IT'S ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE.



SUIT YOURSELF.

I'LL SEE YOU AT LUNCH.





THAT'S GREAT.



I'VE GOT TO BE HONEST, I EXPECTED A LOT MORE PROGRESS, SIDDIQ!



SORRY, ANDREA

ROSITA LEFT ON HERD DUTY AND TOOK HALF OUR MEN. IT'S NOT MY FAULT MY BEST PEOPLE ARE ALSO THE BEST RIDERS.

WE'LL MAKE UP THE WORK. I THINK WE'LL BE DONE IN TIME FOR THE FAIR.

THAT'S TWO MONTHS AWAY. RICK WON'T BE HAPPY IF YOU CAN'T PULL THIS OFF. MAGGIE IS ALREADY PUSHING TO MOVE THE FAIR TO THE HILLTOP.



WE NEED THESE ROOMS READY SO TRAVELERS CAN BE COMFORTABLE.

IT WON'T BE THE RITZ, BUT IT'LL BE DONE. WE'RE WORKING ALMOST AROUND THE CLOCK.



OKAY, I UNDERSTAND. I'LL SEE IF RICK CAN SPARE ANY MANPOWER FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE.



AND LET'S HOPE THERE ISN'T ANOTHER HERD IN THE AREA, OR ELSE WE MAY HAVE TO CANCEL THE FAIR ENTIRELY.

HOW ARE YOU DOING ON SUPPLIES?



WE REALLY OVERSHOT THINGS ON THE LUMBER. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE LEFTOVERS. WE'RE A LITTLE TIGHT ON NAILS, ACTUALLY. I'LL HAVE A BETTER IDEA ON HOW WE STAND BY WEEK'S END.

MIGHT NEED HEATH TO MAKE A RUN TO THE HILLTOP WHEN HE GETS BACK.

GET ROSITA TO LOOK OVER THE INVENTORY WHEN SHE RETURNS. SHE'S BEST AT DOING AN EYEBALL COUNT.

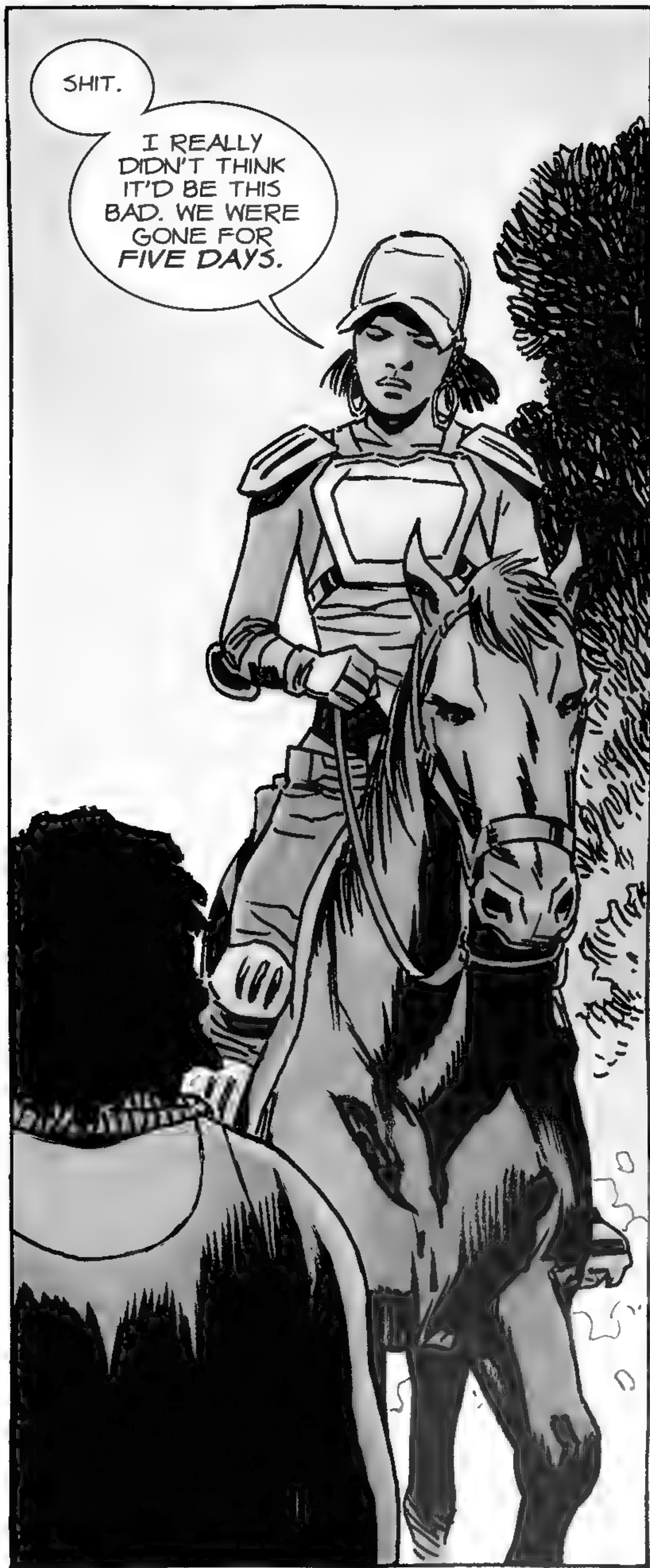
HOPEFULLY THEY'LL BE BACK LATER TODAY.



YEAH, I'D SAY THAT'S A SAFE BET...



HUH?



SHIT.

I REALLY DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE THIS BAD. WE WERE GONE FOR FIVE DAYS.

EXACTLY. AND YOU TOOK ALL OUR HARDEST WORKERS. WITH WESLEY AND DELBERT ALONE WE COULD HAVE DONE **TWICE** WHAT WE--

I'M NOT DOING THIS AGAIN. YOU LADIES NEED TO CUT ME SOME SLACK.



LET ME GO ROUND UP THE BOYS AND WE'LL BE OVER HERE WORKING IN THIRTY.

NO ONE EXPECTS THAT, ROSITA. YOU'VE BEEN OUT. AT LEAST TAKE THE DAY.



NAH. I THINK WE CAN GET THAT WALL DONE TODAY. THAT'D HELP PEOPLE WORK FASTER... NOT LOOKING OVER THEIR SHOULDERS.

I'M FINE.



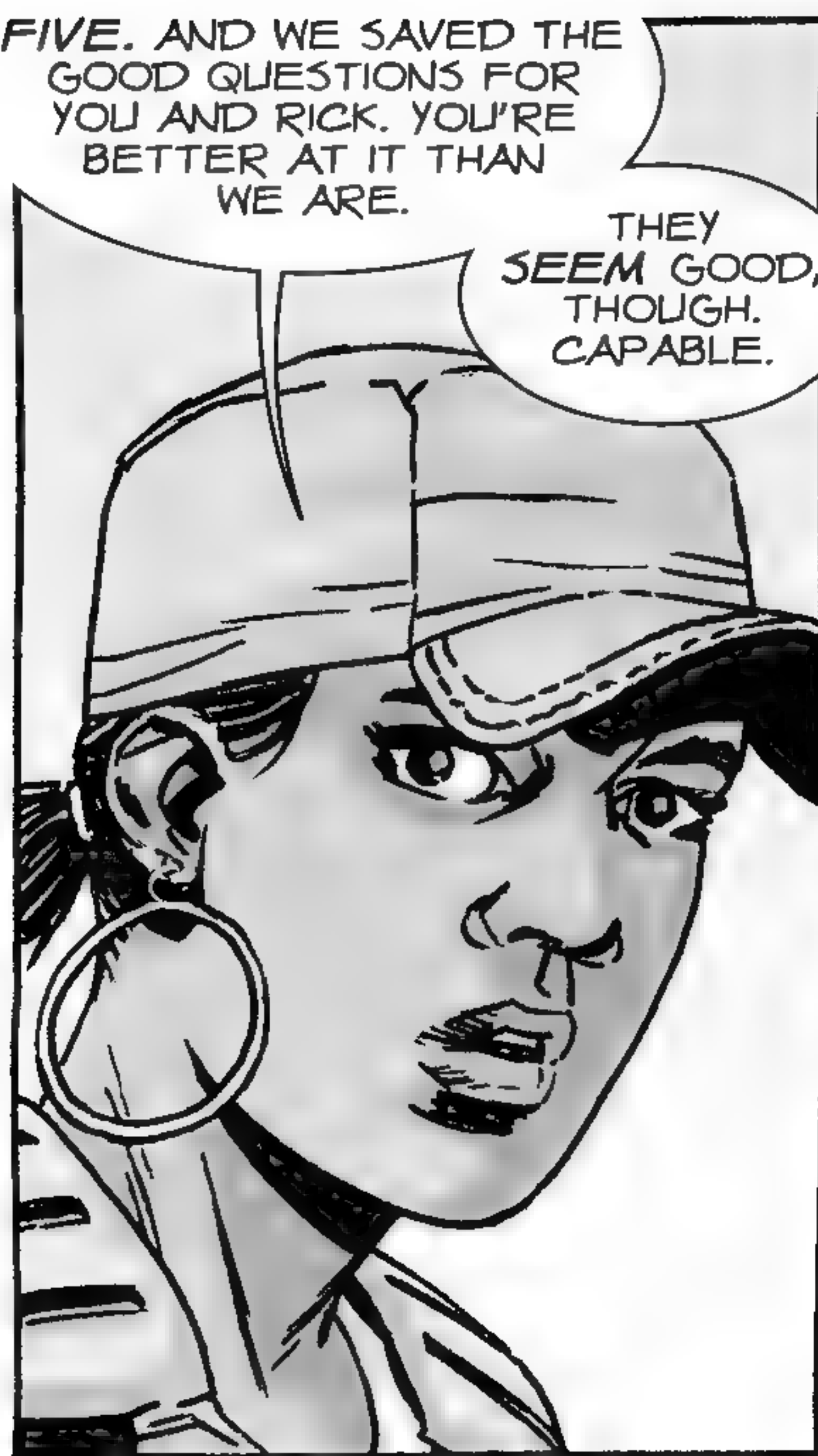
STEER THE HERD?

YEAH, IT CHANGED COURSE PRETTY EASY, BUT IT WAS SO BIG WE HAD TO WATCH IT LONGER, MAKE SURE IT DIDN'T SPLIT OR ANYTHING.

WE FOUND SOME PEOPLE.

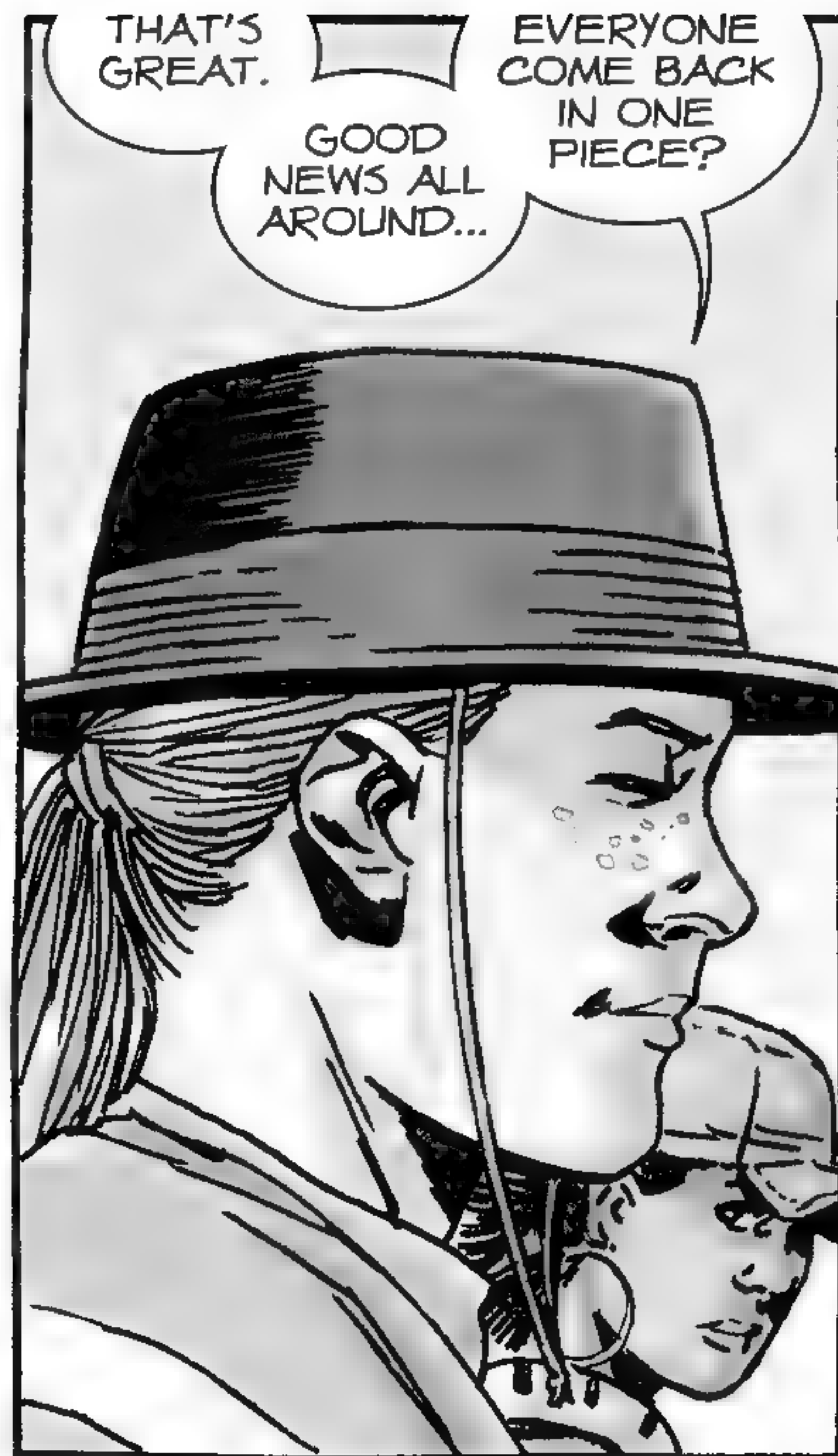


WHAT? HOW MANY? SURVIVING OUT ON THEIR OWN FOR HOW LONG?



FIVE. AND WE SAVED THE GOOD QUESTIONS FOR YOU AND RICK. YOU'RE BETTER AT IT THAN WE ARE.

THEY SEEM GOOD, THOUGH. CAPABLE.



THAT'S GREAT.

GOOD NEWS ALL AROUND...

EVERYONE COME BACK IN ONE PIECE?



YEAH, OUR TEAM IS SQUARE. NEW PEOPLE... THEY LOST ONE TO THE HERD... WE DIDN'T KNOW, WE DROVE IT RIGHT AT THEM.

THAT'S NOT SITTING SO WELL WITH ME... BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO?

THAT'S A TOUGH ONE.



ROSITA...

YOU GET A CHANCE TO TALK TO EUGENE?



YOU KNOW IT WASN'T THE TIME OR PLACE OUT THERE.

I FIGURED... I JUST HAD TO ASK. YOU NEED TO TALK TO HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.



I KNOW.



I'M RICK GRIMES.

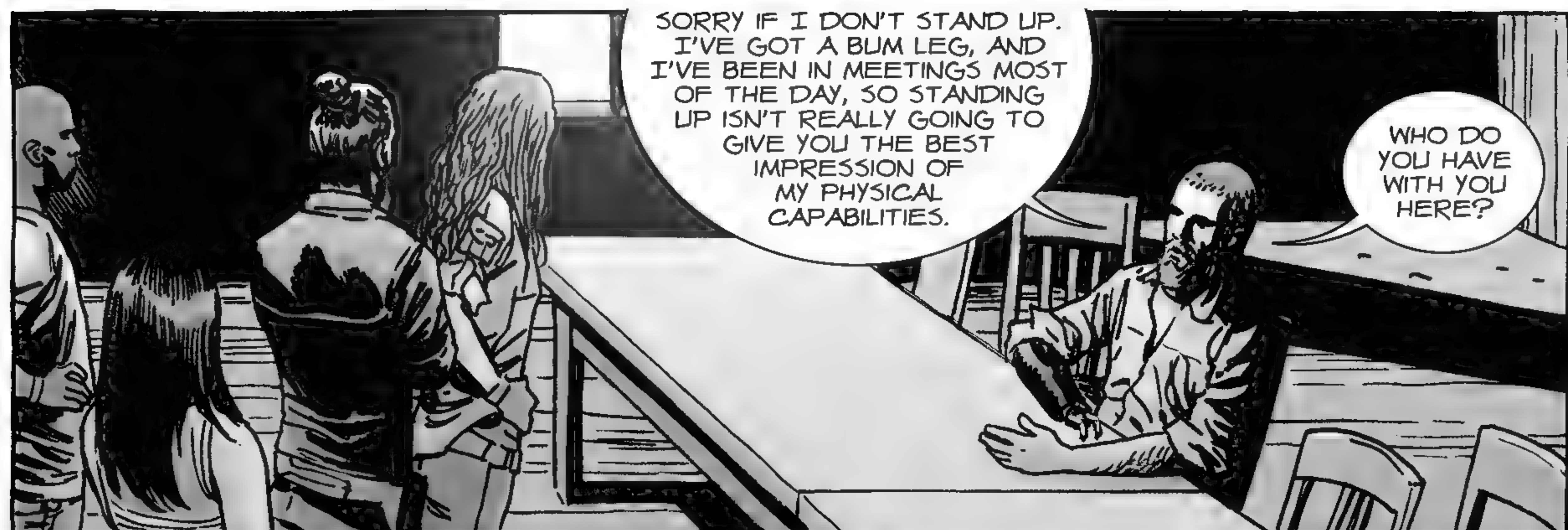
WELCOME TO ALEXANDRIA.



UH, HELLO. I'M... THIS IS SOMEWHAT INTIMIDATING.

I'M MAGNA.

I PROMISE RICK DOESN'T BITE.



SORRY IF I DON'T STAND UP. I'VE GOT A BUM LEG, AND I'VE BEEN IN MEETINGS MOST OF THE DAY, SO STANDING UP ISN'T REALLY GOING TO GIVE YOU THE BEST IMPRESSION OF MY PHYSICAL CAPABILITIES.

WHO DO YOU HAVE WITH YOU HERE?





SORRY, I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

SEEMED WEIRD. DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF THE LEADER HERE?



I WAS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE TITLE FOR A LONG TIME, SO I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.

THERE'S NO GETTING AROUND IT AFTER A WHILE. I'VE ACCEPTED THE TITLE AND ALL THAT COMES WITH IT.

I'M THE LEADER HERE, YES.



WHAT HAPPENS NOW?



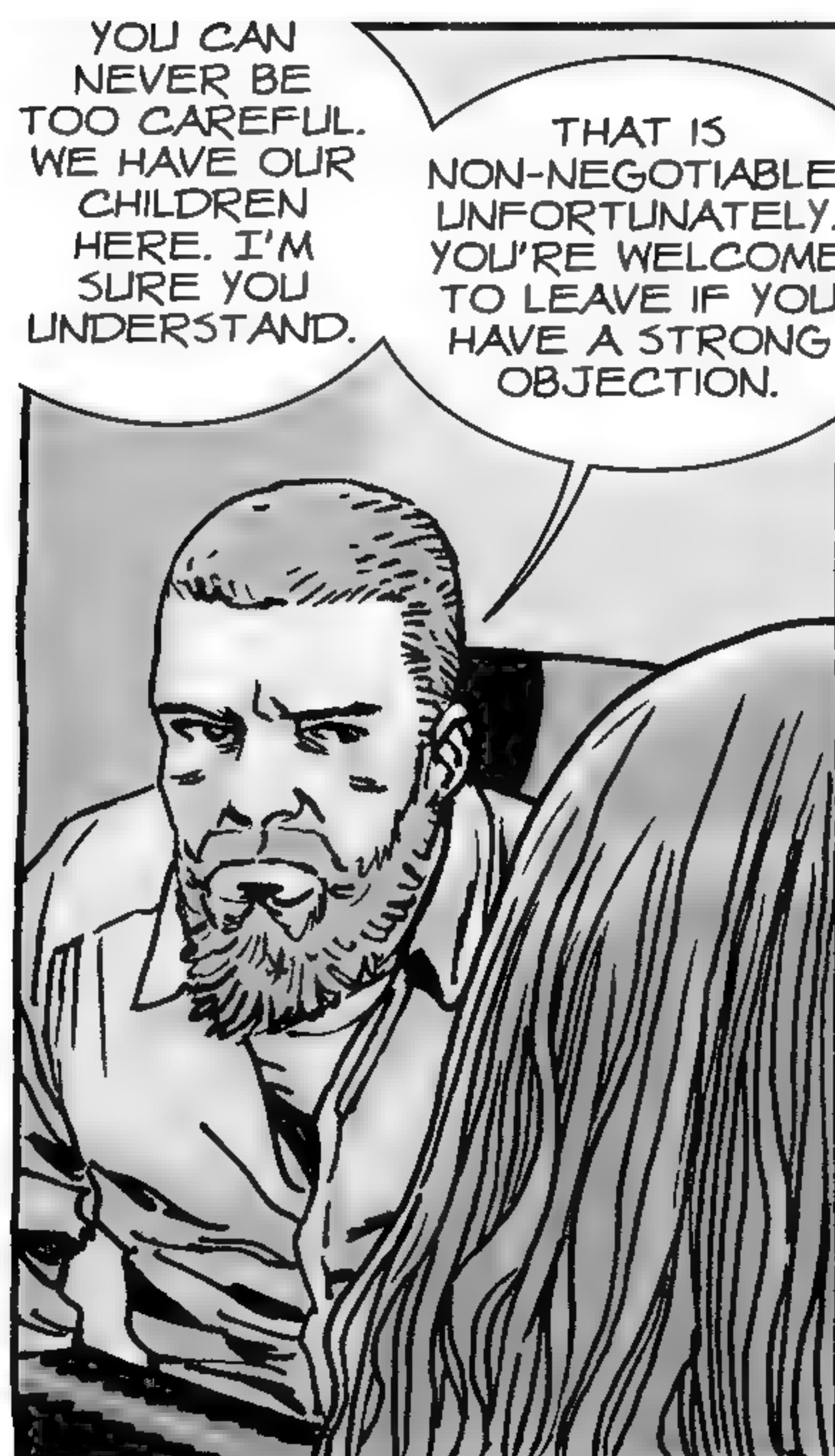
JESUS HAS ALREADY CLEARED YOU. HE FINDS PEOPLE, SEES IF THEY'RE RIGHT TO BE INVITED IN.

WE TRUST HIM... SO NOW WE TRUST YOU.

HE'S ALREADY TAKEN YOUR WEAPONS. AFTER A FEW WEEKS, YOU'LL GET THOSE BACK.



SO YOU DON'T TRUST US COMPLETELY THEN, DO YOU?



YOU CAN NEVER BE TOO CAREFUL. WE HAVE OUR CHILDREN HERE. I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND.

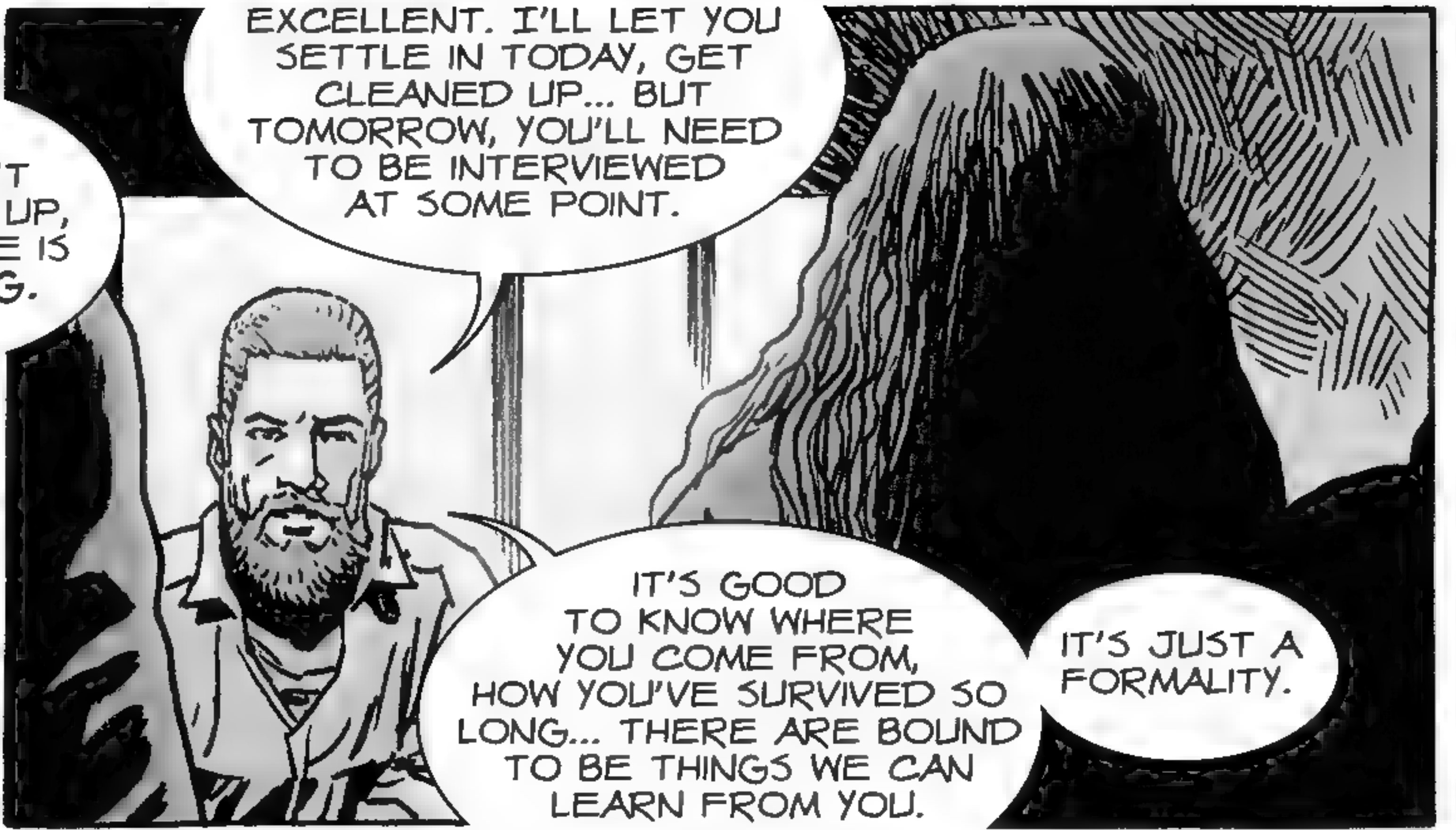
THAT IS NON-NEGOTIABLE, UNFORTUNATELY. YOU'RE WELCOME TO LEAVE IF YOU HAVE A STRONG OBJECTION.





OF COURSE
WE'RE GOING
TO STAY.

WE
COULDN'T
PASS THIS UP,
THIS PLACE IS
AMAZING.



EXCELLENT. I'LL LET YOU
SETTLE IN TODAY, GET
CLEANED UP... BUT
TOMORROW, YOU'LL NEED
TO BE INTERVIEWED
AT SOME POINT.

IT'S GOOD
TO KNOW WHERE
YOU COME FROM,
HOW YOU'VE SURVIVED SO
LONG... THERE ARE BOUND
TO BE THINGS WE CAN
LEARN FROM YOU.

IT'S JUST A
FORMALITY.



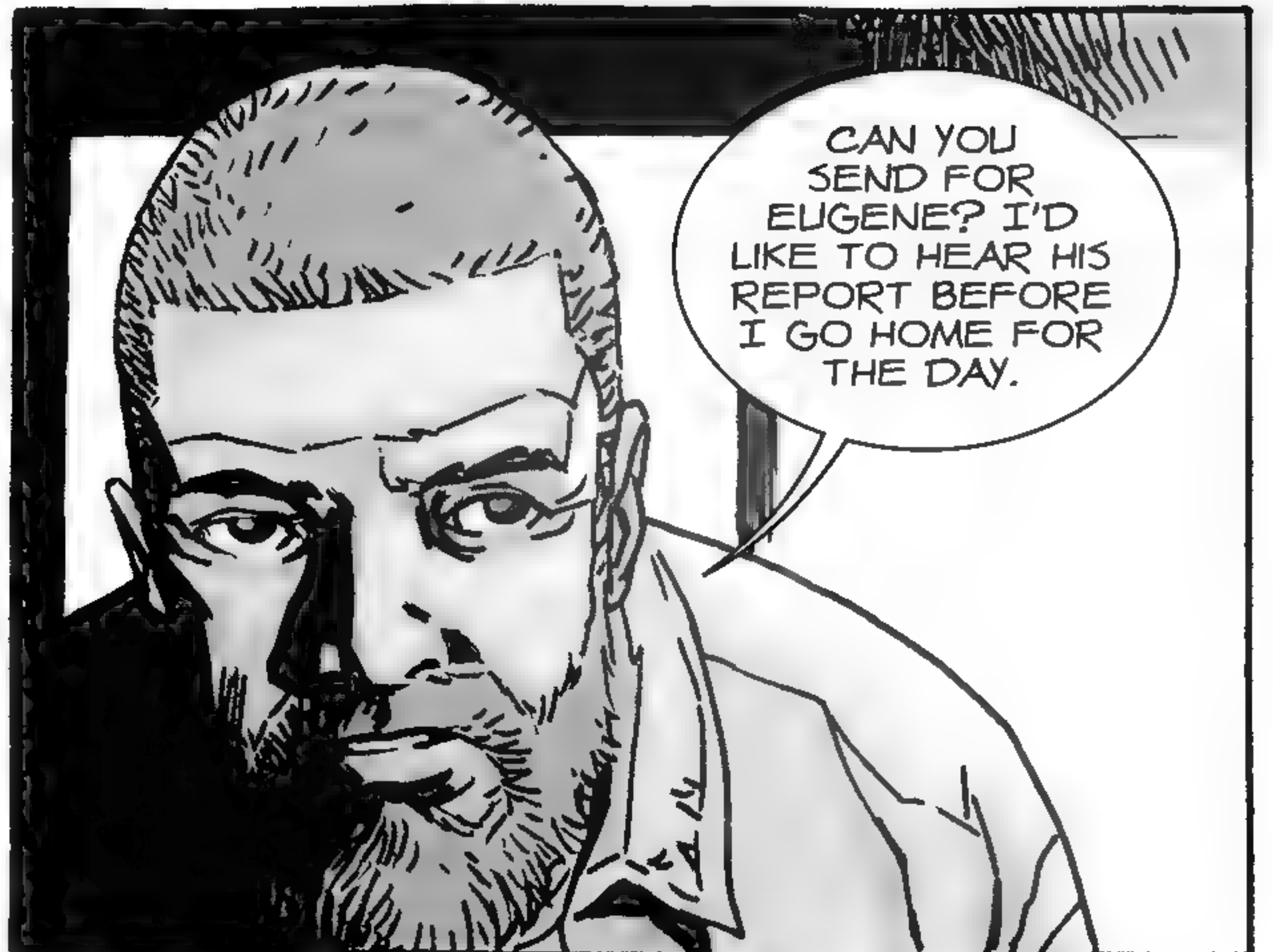
OKAY,
YEAH.
FINE.

I'LL
INTRODUCE
YOU TO OLIVIA.
SHE'LL FIND SOME
OPEN BEDS
FOR YOU.

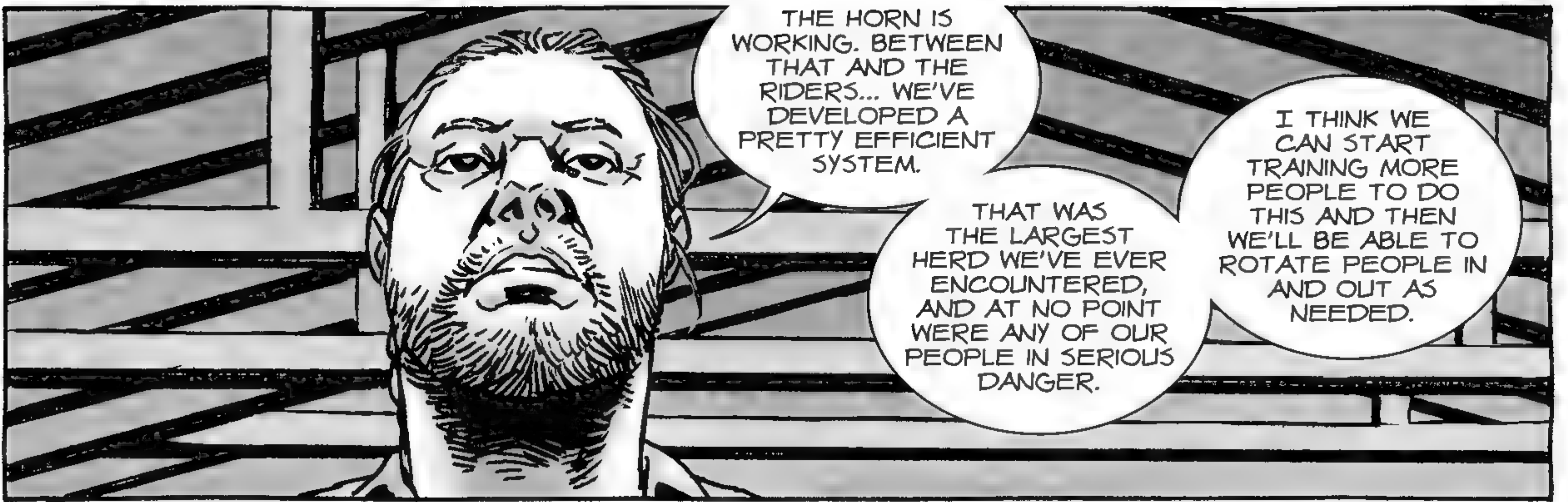


JESUS?

YEAH?



CAN YOU
SEND FOR
EUGENE? I'D
LIKE TO HEAR HIS
REPORT BEFORE
I GO HOME FOR
THE DAY.



THE HORN IS WORKING. BETWEEN THAT AND THE RIDERS... WE'VE DEVELOPED A PRETTY EFFICIENT SYSTEM.

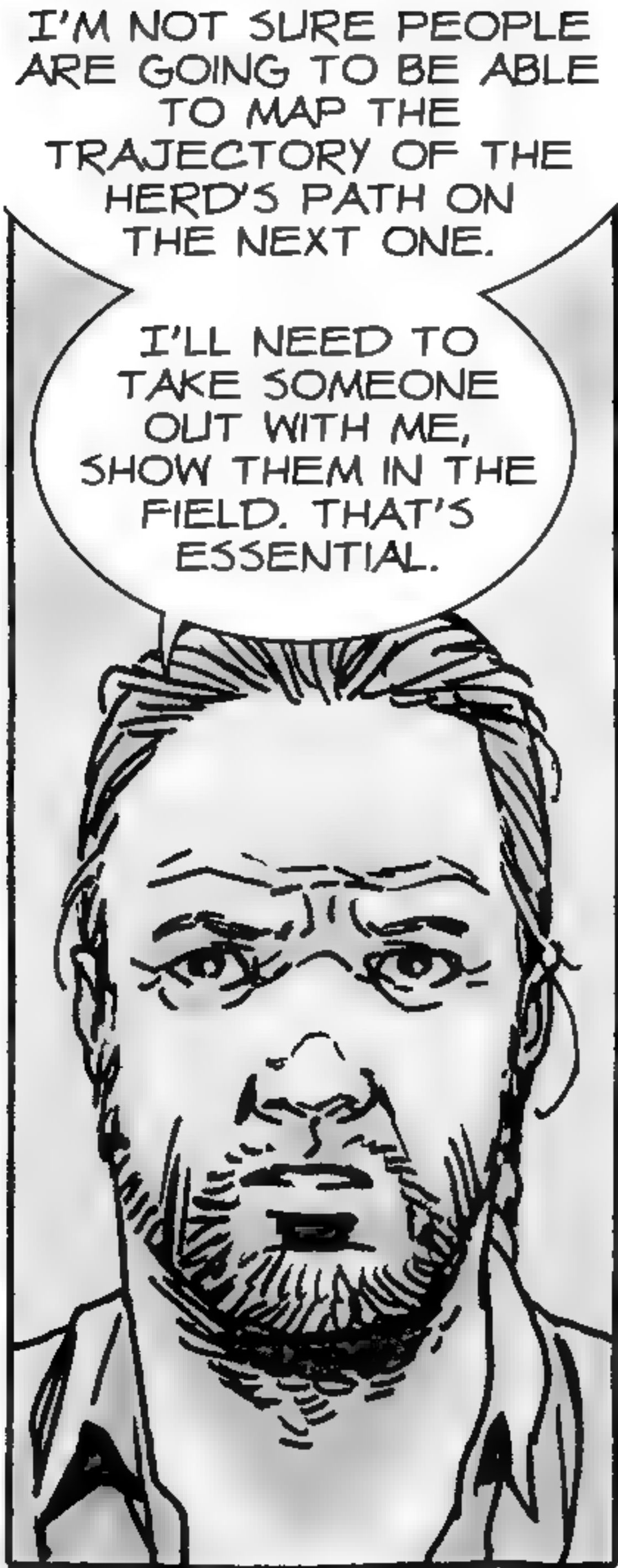
THAT WAS THE LARGEST HERD WE'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED, AND AT NO POINT WERE ANY OF OUR PEOPLE IN SERIOUS DANGER.

I THINK WE CAN START TRAINING MORE PEOPLE TO DO THIS AND THEN WE'LL BE ABLE TO ROTATE PEOPLE IN AND OUT AS NEEDED.



GREAT TO HEAR. BECAUSE THAT'S THE **LAST** TIME YOU'LL BE GOING OUT.

AM I CLEAR?



I'M NOT SURE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAP THE TRAJECTORY OF THE HERD'S PATH ON THE NEXT ONE.

I'LL NEED TO TAKE SOMEONE OUT WITH ME, SHOW THEM IN THE FIELD. THAT'S ESSENTIAL.



THEY MAY NOT BE QUITE AS PRECISE AS YOU, BUT THEY'LL GET THE JOB DONE. OUR COMMUNITIES ARE SPREAD OUT. IT'S NOT THREADING A NEEDLE.

YOU'RE TOO VALUABLE. WE CAN'T HAVE YOU AT RISK LIKE THIS ANYMORE. END OF STORY.



HOW IS THE MILL DOING? STILL RUNNING?

FINE.



RUNNING SMOOTHLY. I JUST FINISHED OFF OUR FIRST LOAF OF BREAD THIS MORNING. YOUR DESIGN IS WORKING GREAT.

I WAS GOING TO DO AN INSPECTION TOMORROW. CAN YOU JOIN ME?



SURE.

BUT IT WASN'T MY DESIGN, I JUST READ A BOOK.



DON'T DO THAT.

DO WHAT?

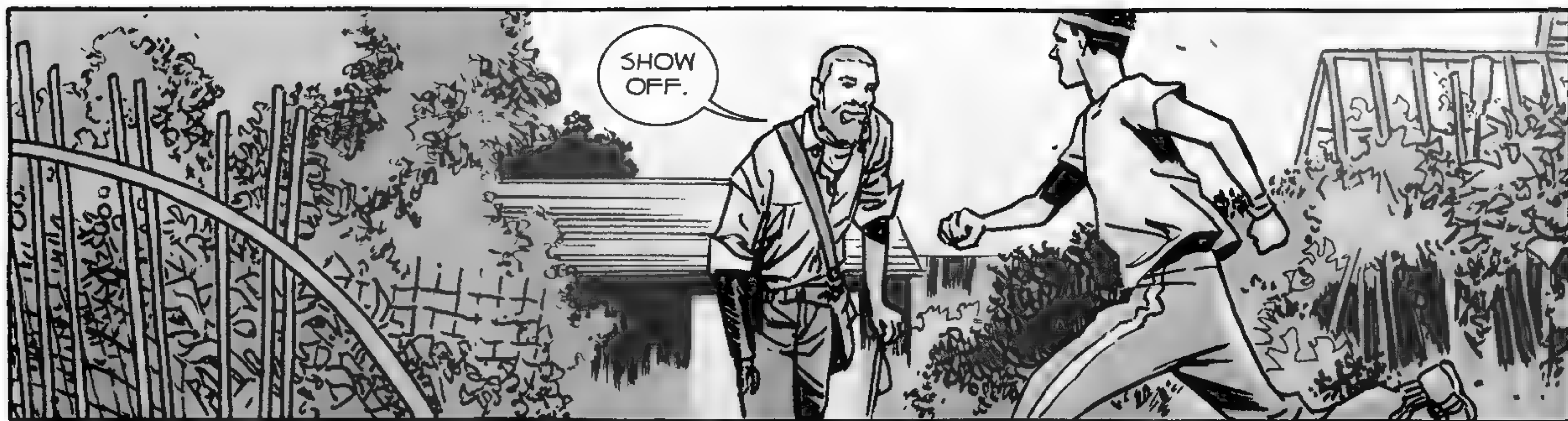
DON'T DIMINISH WHAT YOU DO HERE. YOU'RE PRESERVING OUR TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND SHORTENING THE ROAD BACK BY A GREAT DEAL.

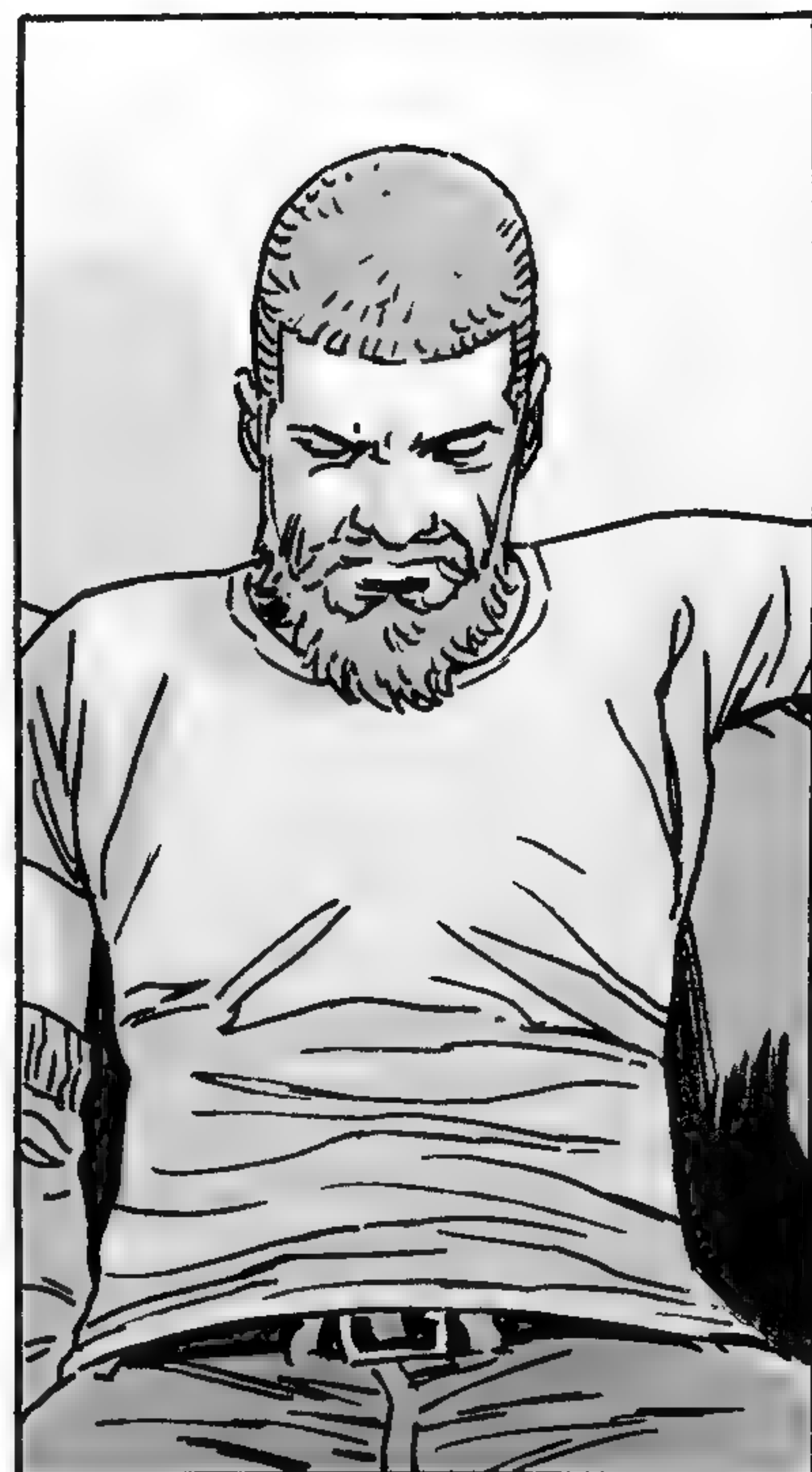
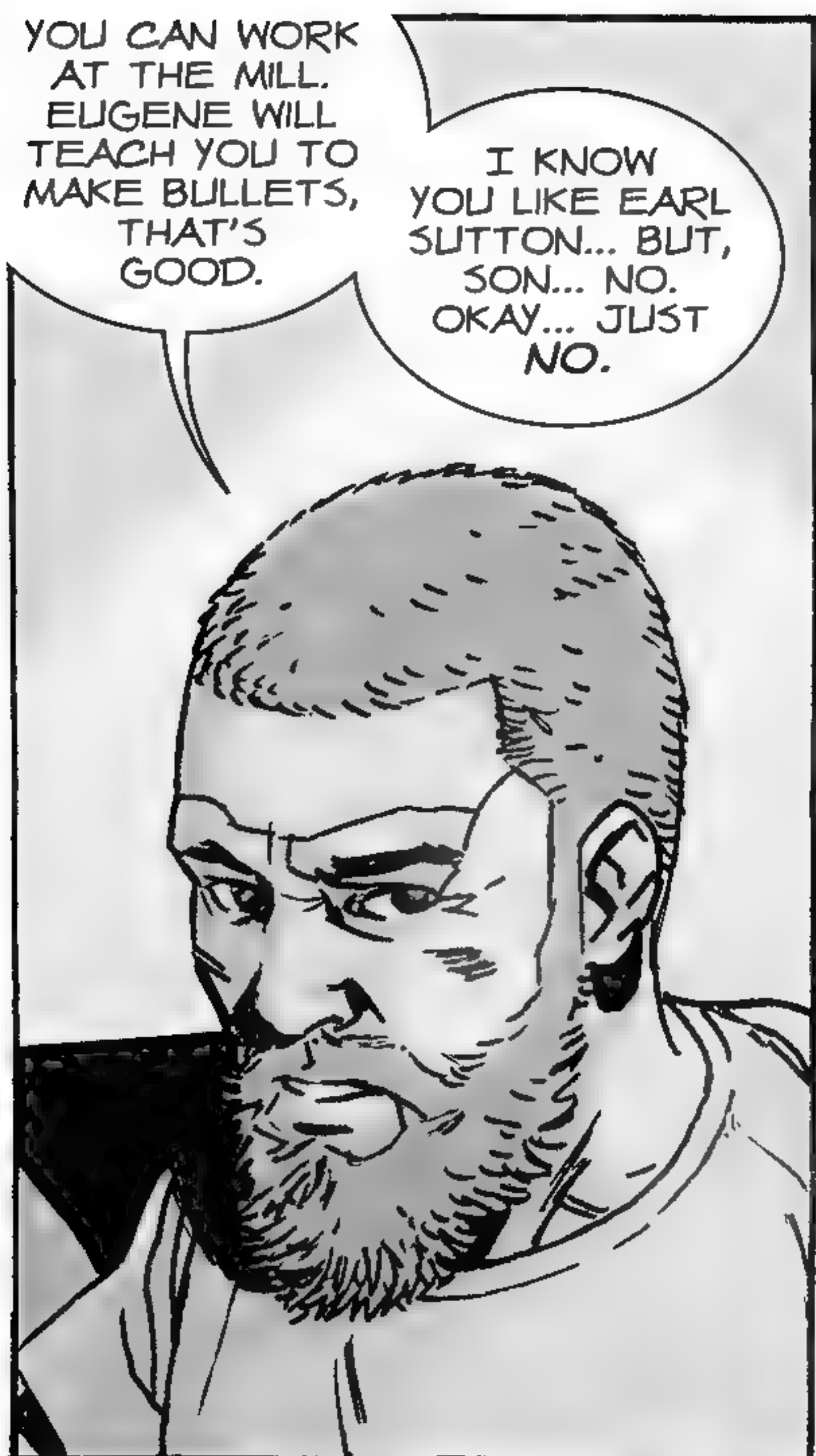
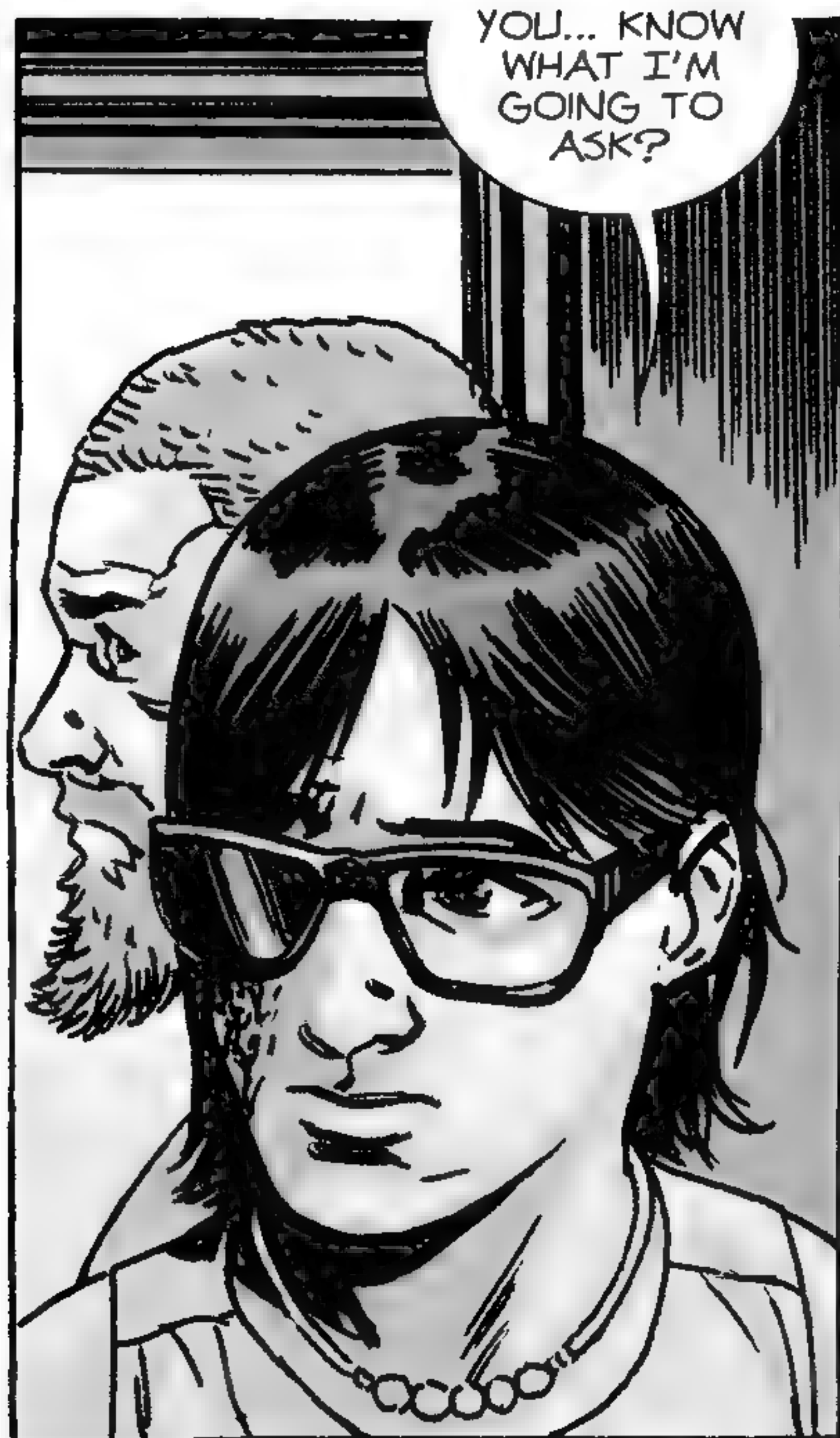
YOU'RE DOING FAR MORE THAN READING A BOOK.



I SUPPOSE.

I NEED TO BE GETTING HOME NOW. I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW. MEET ME AT MY HOUSE. WE'LL WALK OVER.







I CAN'T LET
YOU LIVE
AT THE
HILLTOP,
CARL.

IT'S...
JUST TOO
FAR.



YOU KNOW I CAN TAKE
CARE OF MYSELF. I'VE
PROVEN THAT OVER
AND OVER
AND OVER.

YOU CAN'T
KEEP TREATING
ME LIKE I'M
JUST SOME
KID.



MAYBE IT'S ME.
MAYBE IT MAKES
ME FEEL SAFER
TO HAVE YOU
HERE.

OH, THAT'S
BULLSHIT.



CARL, CALM
DOWN
AND...

DAMN
IT.

YOU'RE
RIGHT, OKAY?
YOU'RE OLDER
NOW, CAPABLE...
AND THINGS ARE
MORE SAFE.
THE WORLD IS, AND
I NEED TO
RECOGNIZE
THAT.

THIS IS
VERY HARD FOR
ME. YOU'RE
MY SON AND...



I'LL
THINK
ABOUT
IT.



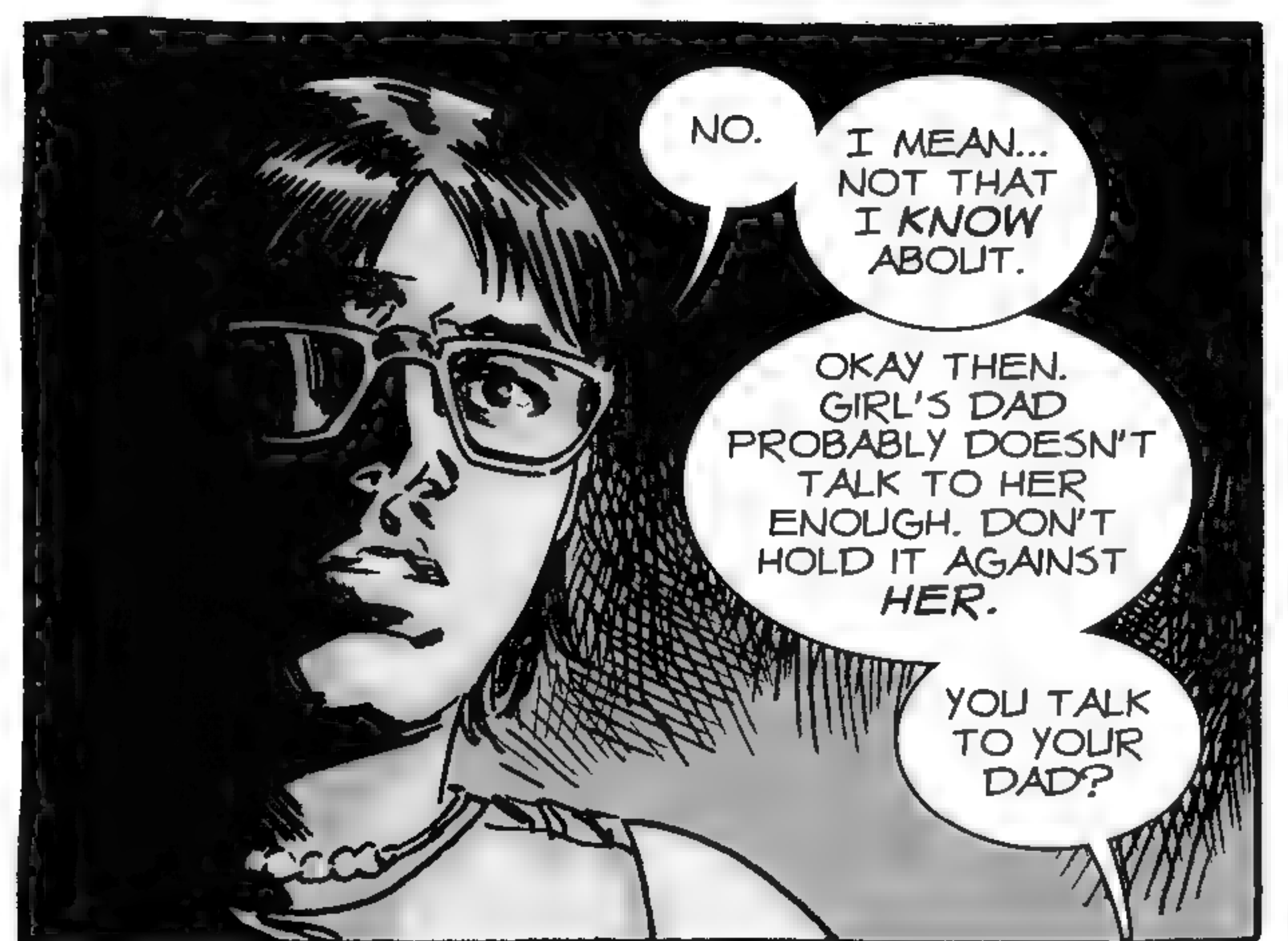
YEAH,
THAT'S
FAIR.

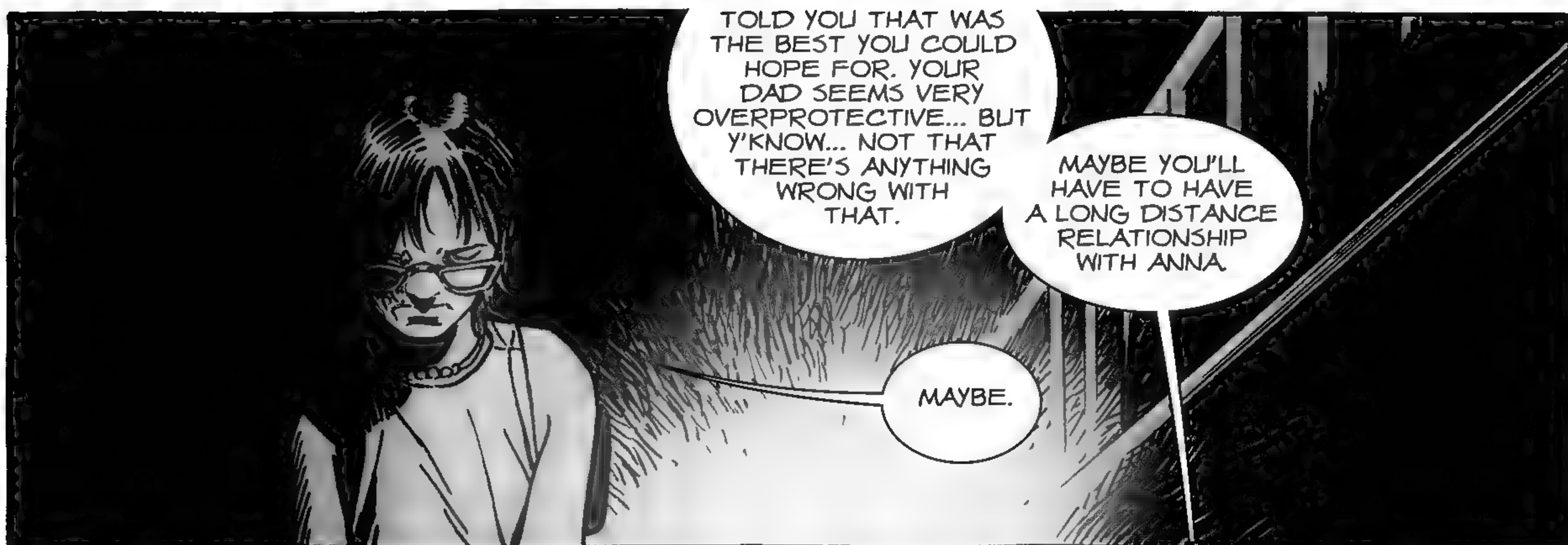
COOL.

YOU'LL
THINK
ABOUT IT.
OKAY.











LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Two years... of relative peace and growth, and now we're here. Just how will these new arrivals impact Alexandria? And has prison rehabilitated Negan of swearing? (And if so, has Rick created the first prison that has successfully rehabilitated anyone? Genius!)

Now let's dive into your reactions to Rick slicing Negan's throat and other AOW shenanigans...

I did NOT see that coming!

Fuck! Fuck! Fucking fuck!

Cory

I love you, Cory Walker... I assume this is from Cory Walker.

Kirkman-

Don't you fucking dare kill fucking Negan! Really that's fucking all I wanna fucking say. Fucker.

Lon Levin
Philafuckingdelphia, P fucking A

I hope you're fucking happy.

I just involuntarily yelled out loud and shook my fist in victory while reading the end of this issue while everyone at the restaurant I was in stared at me. It's been a while since I've embarrassed myself in public that fully. Well done, Kirkman.

Erik

I just want to know what restaurant you were at. Sounds like it's frequented by judgmental pricks. I bet it's Wendy's.

Wendy's is awesome. Square burgers for the win.

Let him turn!

I hope that Rick dipped that knife in a walker before he cut Negan! He deserves to die and turn for what he and Lucille did to Glenn. Remember people he freakin killed Glenn!!!! Let him turn and strap his ass to the front gate as a warning to all! You mess with Rick, you get your ass handed to you. I hope this guy goes out slow and painful. I can't wait to see where #126 goes.

Charles Ecton
McDonough, GA

I hope you weren't disappointed... ;-)

Dear Walking Dead comic crew,

After reading the final page of issue #125, I could feel the collective cheer of the TWD fan base. Me on the other hand? I sulked all day. I would walk past my Negan action figure hanging on the wall and I would weep. I know that no character is safe and they'll all eventually die. I just hoped that maybe, just maybe that Negan and the saviors would come out on top in the war. Oh well, I just need to find a new character to like. Great writing and great art. Keep up

the amazing work. I can hardly wait for the exciting conclusion to "All Out War." Hopefully Negan can take down a few of the good guys before he goes.

Hugs and handshakes,
Travis Archibald

Be the first to update your Negan figure and glue some hair on that sonnuvabitch. I'm sure our online team would love to retweet something as gnarly as that.

Damn... we're going to have to do new action figures for all these people. I didn't consider that at all.

Dead Mr. Kirkman & that guy who always picks on everyone who writes in (love ya Sean),

I'd like to keep this short n' simple (as those are my favorite letters to read; why I wasted a whole sentence already is beyond me). I've really enjoyed what Negan has brought to the story but like most have despised him as a person. I also have probably "craved" his death more than most readers. That being said, I was left quite unsatisfied with the way he went out (assuming he's dead?). The second Rick started talking I knew where it was leading and just dreaded the panel when Rick did it. I was hoping for him to go out on a bad note so we could enjoy it a little more. Maybe that wasn't your intention at all. Are we supposed to not have enjoyed it as much as we all thought we would after he killed our favorite pizza delivery boy, or am I just crazy for forgetting all the bad he's already done?

Well so much for keeping it short... 'least I tried!

Micah

There have been 26 issues since he first appeared, so if you didn't understand him better by now, we wouldn't have done our jobs. Hey, I'm happy the guy's still around, too!

Crap, has he really been around for 26 issues already? Neat. I do hope after reading this issue, you all realize that Negan is definitely being punished for killing Glenn and Spencer and Holly and all the others.

For well over two years now, WALKING DEAD has been my go to favorite running comic. I get excited and look forward to every issue like it's a birthday present. And while some people complained about the extended ALL OUT WAR arc, I loved it from the beginning.

Negan was Kirkman's masterpiece creation. A fascinating and terrifying villain who was far more complex than The Governor could ever be. I loved him. But issue #125 just DID NOT WORK AT ALL. You're telling me that in the span of a two minute conversation with Rick, that Negan is ready to make peace with the communities once and for all? After all that's happened? All the bloodshed? Negan would never, for one moment, think that Rick would actually forgive him. He's way too smart for that.

Furthermore, to have Rick simply slash Negan's throat was a disappointingly bland way for Negan to get killed. And Kirkman is usually far too talented of a writer to be bland. I love the comic and I still do. I want to be clear about that. But sometimes you need to call out the flaws for the good of the whole and you let us down Kirkman. I feel like a middle-aged father talking to his teenage son. I'm not

angry, just disappointed.

Sincerely,
Your Loyal Fan Phil from Los Angeles

You assume too much. As you now know, Negan didn't die... and I do feel like in all the struggle for power and control, it's quite possible that Negan never considered the bigger picture, or the potential of what these people had. Negan is a very complex character, and he would be big enough to admit when he's wrong, no matter the circumstances.

My name is Jeff and I'm an addict. I have been reading The Walking Dead comics for seven years and watching the show for four. I have no plan on stopping.

I have to say that issue 125 took me off guard. I guess it did that for Negan too. Reading the comics for so long has taught me to second guess everything and everyone, but when Rick slashed Negan's throat I just stared at the picture in shock. I am a pacifist (this doesn't mean you avoid violence but it means that you seek to end violence through nonviolent means) so when Rick was giving his speech I thought he was taking the pacifist way. I was starting to think that perhaps the big surprise ending would be a partnership between Negan and Rick, and then BAM! Or I think the sound was "SVAASH!" Just crazy! The reason I read these books is because it keeps me guessing and keeps me shocked. Keep it up! So little stories do this for me.

I also want to say that I appreciate your response to the letter hack about Jesus being gay. In that Hacks a Christian emailed stating that they are so insulted that they are going to stop reading the comic. Well, I'm a pastor and I was upset by that guy's bitching about such a stupid topic. I think the way you handled it was excellent and you were more Christ-like than the Christian.

You sound like a pretty awesome pastor.

While I'm on the topic of Christianity, I need to say that I'm not too happy with Gabriel's character. I think his back story is great (a priest who threw away all he stands for because he feared for his safety) but his message is a bit weak. I'm not Catholic but I was excited to hear what this guy's theological interpretation of zombies would be. Robert, you have shown great skill in being able to get inside other's people's thinking and explain it, but I think you have failed to do this with Gabriel's character, and Hershel before him. Come on, no serious bible scholar would claim that zombies are the fulfillment of the prophecy about the dead being raised. Let's see a good talk about the question, "Where is God when you are being eaten by a walker?" If you ever want a theologian to bounce ideas off of, I'm here for you.

Your pastoral friend and fan,
Jeff

I will freely admit that Gabriel's character has certainly not gotten as much attention as I'd like him to. He's still around, and I do plan on featuring him in the story more moving forward... so hopefully I'll get things right this time.

Kirkman and Sean,

Is Rich Grimes a good guy or a bad guy? In most stories there is a clear and apparent good guy and bad guy. This is not the case in The Walking Dead. I know most people would say that obviously Rich is the good guy but I don't think TWD is that black and white, no pun intended. This is also what makes reading TWD so compelling. Just as Rich is giving a moving speech, just as any hero would, and is swaying his opponent to join the good guys he pulls a knife and slits Negan's throat, definitely not a good guy move. We've seen this before from Rich whether he was running over Martinez or brutally killing the hunters. All pretty standard for bad guys but definitely not for good guys. I guess what I'm saying is thanks for making such a complex and interesting lead character.

Since this letter will be published in the back of issue #127 I will throw out a wild guess who is on the cover, it is Judith. The story line has jumped 20 years and we find that Judith survived the shot gun blast her mother took when the Governor and his people stormed the prison. She was found by Lily and raised as her own.

Randy
Ohio

This Rich Grimes shit made me laugh more than any other letter this issue. (Sorry, Randy.) Rich Grimes is the new Jeff Grimes.

Yeah, this Rich Grimes sounds like a maniac. Also, a swing and a miss on the guess for this issue. A time jump sure, but not 20 years... and Judith is so dead it isn't funny.

Just finished #125. Very nice work.

In particular, I was blown away when Carl says to Mikey about people telling him to "...get used to the feeling of being scared and sad..." and then tells him not to listen to them. To this Mikey replies, "Uh, Okay". Carl is the grizzled veteran of a hundred battles; Mikey is the foxhole virgin.

Absolute brilliance. Carl shows us that he still has feelings, still has humanity. Mikey's response snaps us back to the reality that even in this fucked up world of TWD, kids are still gonna be kids. The questions remains, will Mikey take the death of his father like a normal kid, or will it harden him into a killing machine.

JB in Frederictom

Mikey's still around, and seems to have adjusted well... but I like that in an issue when Rick slices Negan's throat, folks can appreciate the smaller beats as well.

Dear Kirkman and Co,

I know that if this gets published it will be 2 issues from now, and I can almost 100% guarantee I am going to be incredibly sad and happy all at the same time. Because you have to figure Negan's going to die and I truly fell for Rick being all nice and cozy with him. But nope, twas all a lie and now Negan's gonna get like murdered by some left handed person with Lucille. Or not, who knows. But I do know that Dwight is going to die and I am going to go cry in a corner, because Dwight is literally my favorite character. And I know that you can be cruel, especially to people with crossbows.

I demand compensation for this injustice, mainly because I am a crossbow user myself. Be nice to Daryl and Dwight, they are contributing important things to the world. For example I swear Dwight is the only person with a crossbow in any comics I've read recently. And I know one day you're going to write me into the comics too with a crossbow and just be really cruel to me as well because of this. No of course I'm joking. But I know that the comic is going to change and I am glad, but at the same time you can't help but to feel sad and nostalgiac looking back at all that has happened. Just letting you know, I will stick with you through thick and thin.

Sincerely,
Brent, a random guy with a crossbow.

Except now Dwight's put down the crossbow for a bat... so... write us another letter to let us know how you feel about that.

Dear Walking Dead Team,

First, I have to admit I didn't read any of the comics until the night after the season 4 premier. I mean, I've never read a single comic book in my life. But I couldn't handle The Walking Dead being over yet and decided the best way to get my fix was to read the comic books. Well, I am now all the way caught up to issue 125! I'm hooked for life. You guys are awesome.

This is awesome. I love to hear this. Seriously, though... this is not the best comics has to offer, I swear. So try more comics now that you enjoy this one. You'll be glad you did.

Friends and family warned me about getting into comic books. They said no guy (except for comic book guys) would want to date a girl into comic books. They didn't think it was cool enough or an acceptable way to spend free time instead of going out. After reading them though...fuck that. Seriously screw anyone who judges me for reading these awesome books they aren't worth my time. I'll just kindly let them know they are missing out in life before a classy wink and slow walk away.

If you're reading, point blank period, your time is well spent. (And hey, no pressure... but if you're looking for recommendations beyond TWD, try any of Skybound's other titles.) And what's wrong with comic book guys?!

Holy crap... that's still a thing? People looking down on people for reading comics? I guess I'm so entrenched in this world that I've completely forgotten that

stigma from when I was growing up. It's so much lamer to be a wrestling fan... and there are tons of those.

So thank you for officially turning me into a nerd or geek or whatever is the correct thing to say. Bring on the nerdy guys!

Chelsea W.
LA SoCal

PS. Why do people complain about The Governor and Negan being the same? Isn't that what comic books are? There are the good guys and then a villain shows up the good guys win and repeat. I don't get what other storyline are waiting for? They can't seriously be waiting on a happy ending. I mean Robert (can I call you that? I feel like we're friends now) has said over over that everyone dies. Maybe I'm just a noob (did I even use that correctly) and have know idea what I'm talking about.

You really don't... because Negan and The Governor are COMPLETELY DIFFERENT... damn it.

Anyways this turned out way longer than expected, but I would love to be published and rub it in everyone's faces that said comics were a waste of time. I mean being in a comic is pretty awesome, right?! Well maybe not to them, but to me. So cut out anything if this needs to be shorter!

Chelsea, we hereby declare you officially awesome.

Dear Messrs. Kirkman and Mackiewicz,

I appreciate your storytelling, particularly the suspense during and between issues. In fact, I enjoy it so much that it quickly becomes unbearable, and my husband and I find it necessary to buy each issue as it comes out. This is unfortunate, because TPs are cheaper per page and prettier and last longer. So screw you, and shut up and take my money.

Certainly! And you can't write letters to TPBs—those fuckers are set in their ways. We still want to impress all of you, and keep it fresh and exciting!

I also enjoy the depth of character in your wonderful series.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah
San Francisco

Thanks for writing in, Sarah! Screw TPBs!

Dear Robert Kirkman,

Can zombies climb ladders and staircases? I eagerly await your reply.

Yours truly,
Zach

No. They cannot. BUT WAIT... in issue 8 they opened that door to the basement and two zombies were there--ready to come out! So... maybe some of them can! I'd say it's very rare for a zombie to retain the motor skills needed to successfully climb stairs. None of them can climb ladders. NONE.

Hi Letter Hacks,

In #125 you tried to answer to Jon.c from UK about still born babies inside of pregnant ladies. I have another question I've been trying to figure out for a moment. I'm currently writing a novel about a dhampire, a creature who's half human/half vampire, because of his father had been force to drink vampire blood and before turning, he wanted to have sex one last time with his wife.

Can we all agree that dhampire is not a great word... and I would be 100% more interested if dhampires were called anything but.

Why aren't they called Manpires? Is that better? Worse? I can't decide.

I think you see where I'm getting at : Hypotetically, what would happen in your universe if an recently bitten dude had sex with his girl? Of course, the poor guy would turn into a Z eventually, but what would happen to the baby? (Not to mention the unlucky woman, when she gives birth...) Half

human, half zombie. Serious shit. Admit it's a good one. Hell, be me guest, you can even use this idea for issue #574, when you'll run out of ideas (which I don't believe, but fuck it).

Ludovic Iadanza from Fucking France.

I think a person being recently bitten before intercourse would have no effect on the offspring. Everyone's infected already, technically, so it's not like he'd be passing anything extra on to the baby, and we've already seen that infected people can procreate just fine.

Dearest Mr. Kirkman,

The juxtaposition of "a side order of my dick up those asses" against maybe the most coherent thing Negan has ever said just a few pages later was completely priceless.

Love you, keep it real.

Robert

I'm glad someone appreciates all the hard work that goes into Negan's dialogue. Wait... did I write this letter?! Am I complimenting myself?! Last names, people!

Kirkman and Mackiewicz,

1. You recently announced a new set of novels, which is awesome! Are all 4 going to focus on Lilly, or will we see other characters come to the forefront, such as how the governor had his own novel?

You'll just have to wait and see. Continuity-wise... novel 5 will pick up chronologically immediately after where novel 4 (Fall of the Governor part 2) ended... so it might be safe to assume that will continue.

2. With regards to the telltale game, are we going to see any more characters from the comic appear there, or is that concept done?

Season 2 of the game isn't so far off our own timeline (well, as of #126 at least), so it would be harder to pull off that kind of crossover with a good deal of travel distance between them. The Telltale guys do such a good job crafting their own characters that they don't need to dip into our well.

Agreed. It's important to me that those games take place in the same world as ours. So I wouldn't want to stretch logic just to shoehorn a cameo.

3. In the comics, what would you do if you ran out of ideas for Rick's group? Would we move on from them, or do you feel like the comic wouldn't be the same without them. I know this has been addressed before with Rick, and if he were to die, but what about with the whole group?

Thanks for reading, and continue making an awesome comic series,

Shamefully a Negan fan,
Ollie Whittall, United Kingdom

While it may be possible to run out of "good" ideas... I stand firm in the belief that I will never run out of ideas for stories to do with this group.

In four weeks...FOUR GLORIOUS WEEKS... we return, and I promise you we won't skip another two years. Just return in time to learn more about newcomer Magna.

I can't wait FOUR WEEKS! Holy crap! We're going to need to go bi-weekly again soon. I won't know what to do with myself with all this free time!

-Robert Kirkman

And check out this preview of Robert's new horror series with Paul Azaceta, OUTCAST BY KIRKMAN & AZACETA. He's way too humble to promote it himself, but it's pretty great. And the first issue is 44 pages of story for only \$2.99. He's doing that a lot lately!

-Sean Mackiewicz

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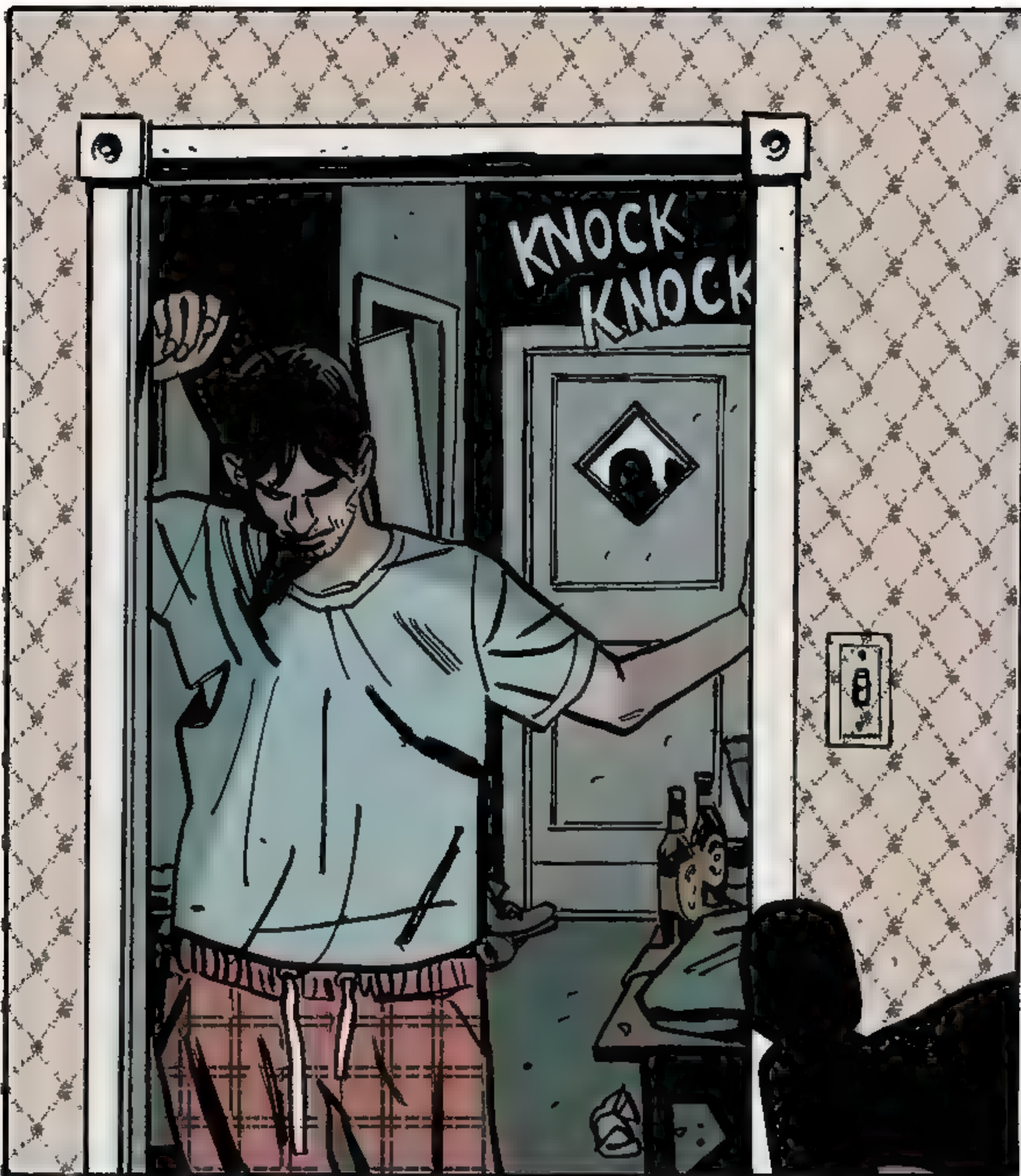
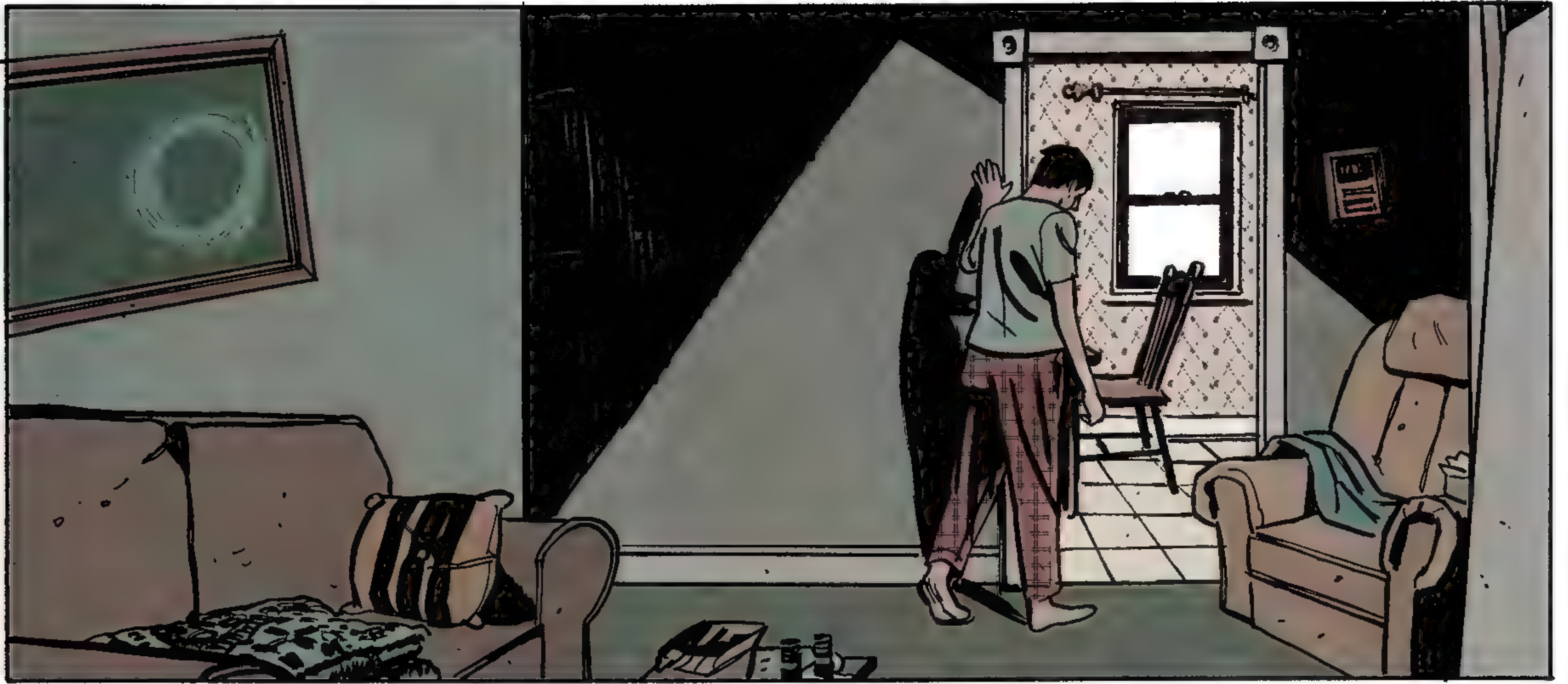
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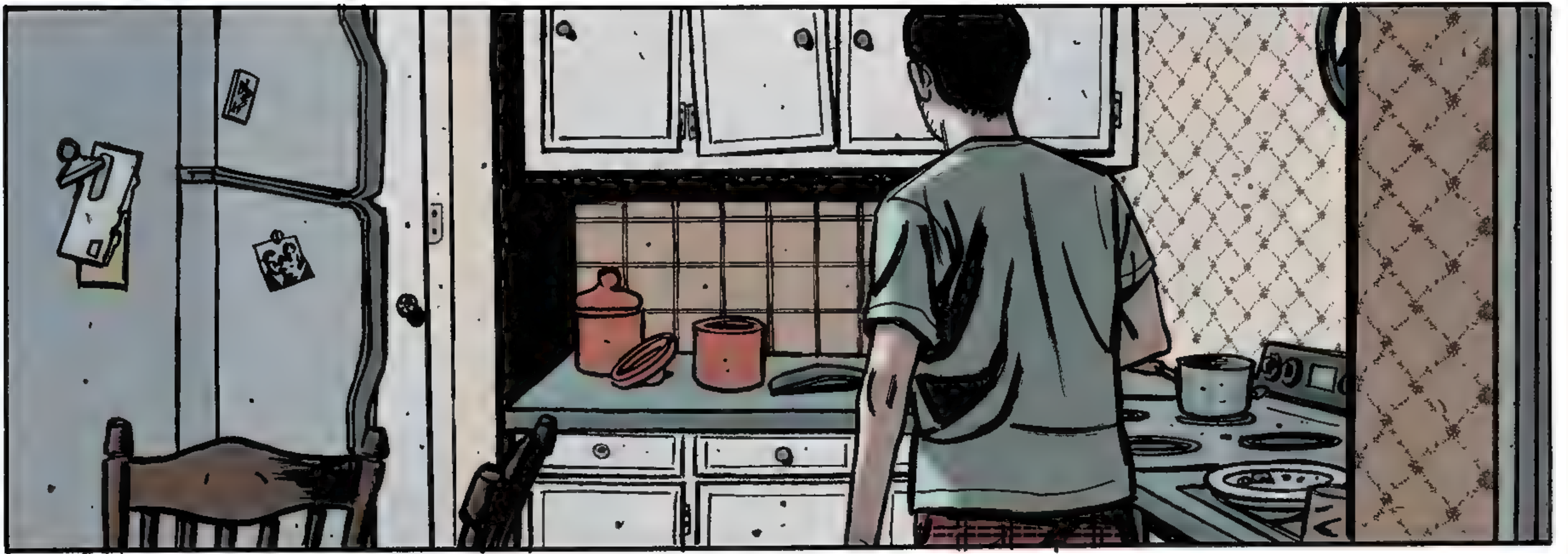
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GODDAMN IT, KYLE.

EVERY TIME YOU MAKE ME DO THAT. EVERY **GOD DAMN** TIME. **WHY?** YOU KNOW I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE.

PLEASE **GO**.

NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.



IT'S WORSE THAN I THOUGHT. WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU ATE A VEGETABLE?

DO YOU **REMEMBER** SOLID POOPS?



WHY ARE YOU HERE, MEGAN?

JUST MAKING SURE YOU'RE ALIVE, BIG BROTHER.



I'M NOT YOUR—

SHUT UP.



NO, **SERIOUSLY**. SHUT UP AND DON'T SAY THAT. YOU'RE MY **BROTHER**. YOU'RE PART OF THE FAMILY, AND I CARE ABOUT YOU.

SO **ENOUGH** WITH THE MOPEY BULLSHIT.



YOUR MOTHER WAS A MEAN, CRAZY BITCH—BUT THAT WAS A **LONG TIME** AGO.

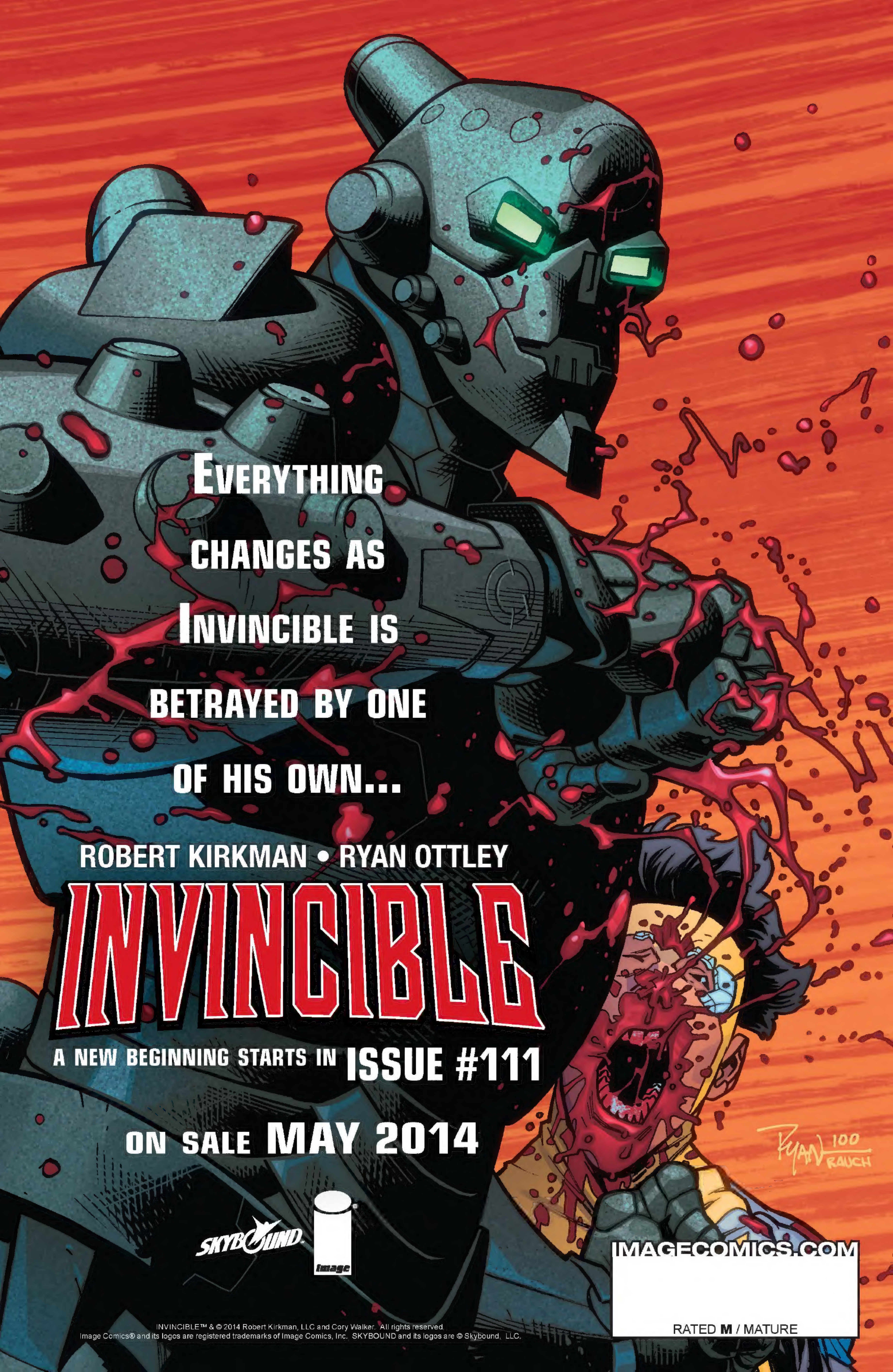
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